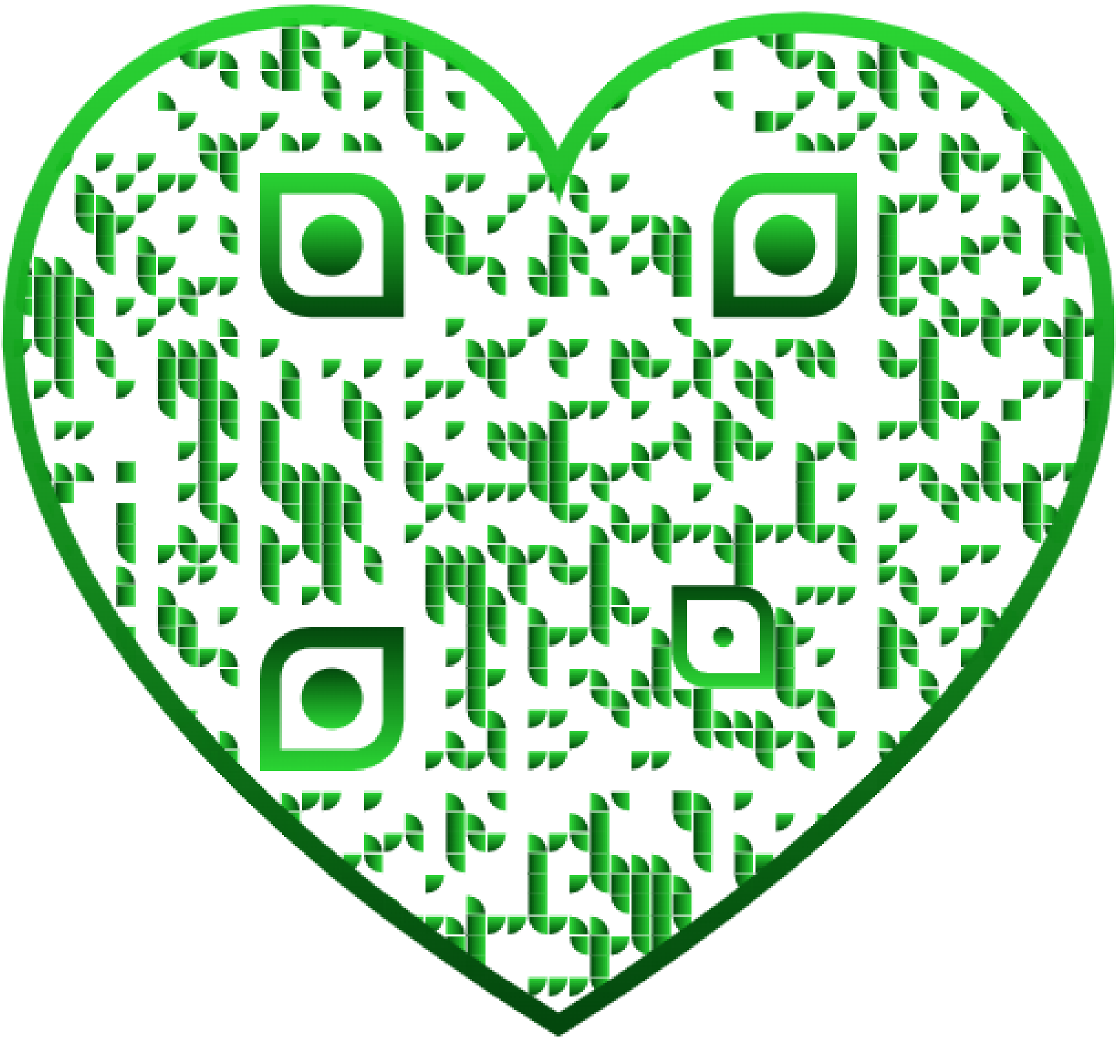
Architecture, Au

May 2025

Products

Talking shop — How brick-and-mortar retail design is changing in an age of online convenience. **Sound bites —** Arup consultant Sylvia Jones shares tips for improving acoustic performance in dining environments. **Plus** new product releases, showroom openings **and more.**



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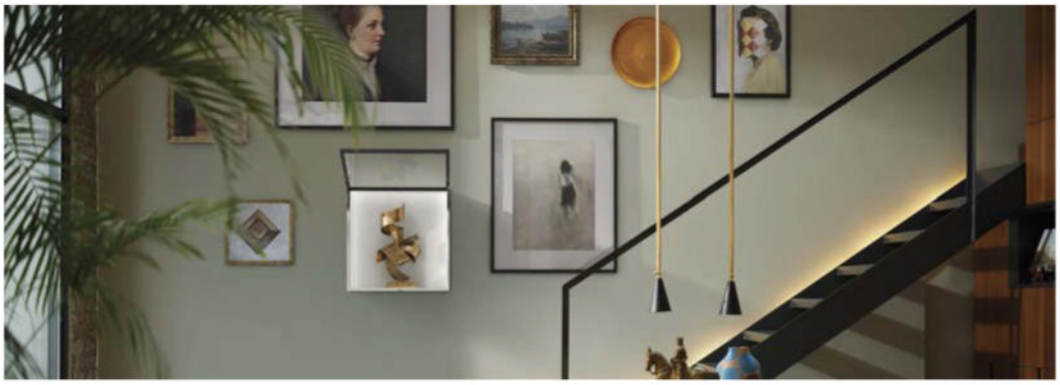

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Talking shop

A range of designers discuss how retail fit-out briefs and trends are changing to compete with (or complement) online shopping convenience.

Postal Hall bookshop by Trower Falvo Architects. Photo: Ben Hosking.

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Cover image — Nagnata Byron Bay by Pattern. The store features Ambient Lighting's controllable LEDs that present a relaxing warm hue by day and bathe the space in electrifying colour by night. Photo: Tom Ross.

Editor’s Note

Welcome to the third edition of *ArchitectureAu Products*. This issue takes a deep dive into interior design, focusing on the cultivation of *experience* through thoughtful material specification.

In putting together this issue, I was thinking about the way interior materiality makes us feel as residents, customers, and workers. Which acoustic products make communication easier in noisy restaurants, without losing ambience? How do we design flexible, multi-use shops that don’t feel like they’re going to disappear overnight? I reached out to a range of experts to unpack these ideas and more.

Our cover story looks at how **brick-and-mortar retail fit-outs** are holding strong in an age of online convenience, with four designers sharing their take on the shift in client briefs and product specification. Retail project case studies include Kloke by Olaver Architecture, Postal Hall bookshop by Trower Falvo Architects, Nagnata by Pattern, and Sarah and Sebastian Armadale by Richards Stanisich (p.10).

In the interiors-themed section, Arup acoustic consultant Sylvia Jones shares her tips for **improving acoustic performance** and enhancing customer experiences in dining environments (p.16). Fiona Lynch also reflects on her sustainable product database **Future Archive** five years on from its inception, and discusses new materials she’s currently exploring (p.20).

Plus, interior designer Ana Ćalić McLean joins our **specifier Q&A series**, with a timber product recommendation (p.58).

We hope you enjoy this issue.

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Architecture, Au Products

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Talking shop

The changing face of brick-and-mortar retail.

by Olivia Round

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This page: Kloke store in Melbourne designed by Olaver Architecture.
Opposite left: Tres Joinery's waxed aluminium POS unit.
Opposite right: The retained rough cut between two rooms and Gonzlab's stainless steel rails. All photos: Tom Ross.

Harsh fluorescent lights, crammed clothing racks and labyrinthine layouts are visuals evocative of early 2000s retail design. Fortunately, fit-out trends have evolved and brick-and-mortar retail appears to be holding strong despite the rise of online shopping during COVID. According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics, approximately 88% of retail transactions this year were made in-store versus online.[1] Additionally, two-thirds of a surveyed Gen Z cohort expressed a preference for shopping in physical stores, with 32% of respondents seeking a "unique and experiential in-person shopping experience".[2] So, what is it about retail fit-out design that continues to engage consumers in an age of online convenience?

InteriorsAu editor Cassie Hansen, who has covered interior design for over 15 years, points to a key factor: investment in customer experience.

"Retail design is increasingly focused on creating immersive, customer-centred experiences," she explains. "Designers are adding value to the shopping experience by embracing thoughtful material choices and flexible layouts, ensuring spaces are not only aesthetically appealing but also functional and inclusive. The trend is moving towards designs that prioritise comfort, adaptability and community engagement."

Product specification plays a pivotal role in shaping our experience of any environment. As retail stores strive to capture consumer attention, their materiality and ambiance must also work harder. Here are four case studies that showcase how designers are reimagining the in-person shopping experience through considered material choices.

Kloke by Olaver Architecture

Olaver Architecture's fitout for fashion brand Kloke's new Melbourne store followed an unorthodox approach, with the design evolving on the fly as they stripped the Little Collins Street building back to its bare bones, revealing its raw, beautifully imperfect materials.

Director Emlyn Olaver explains that the shell called for a "light touch" approach, to let the provenance shine through. Uncovered herringbone flooring has been tastefully restored with resin in-fill, while smooth stainless steel custom rails, mirrors and shelves by Gonzlab were specified for their ability to complement the rough-cut and restored elements.

"I always strive to design with a dichotomy of materiality – raw and refined, rough and smooth. I like having a strong contrast," he says.

Steel was chosen for its ability to form a slim yet sturdy profile, supporting the notion of semi-permanence and flexibility.

"When selecting the material that would best display the clothing, we sought a balance between a light piece that wouldn't require extensive superstructure and could be dismantled on a whim, yet still conveys a sense of permanence," says Olaver. "We didn't want to just roll in racking. It needed to feel bespoke for the space."

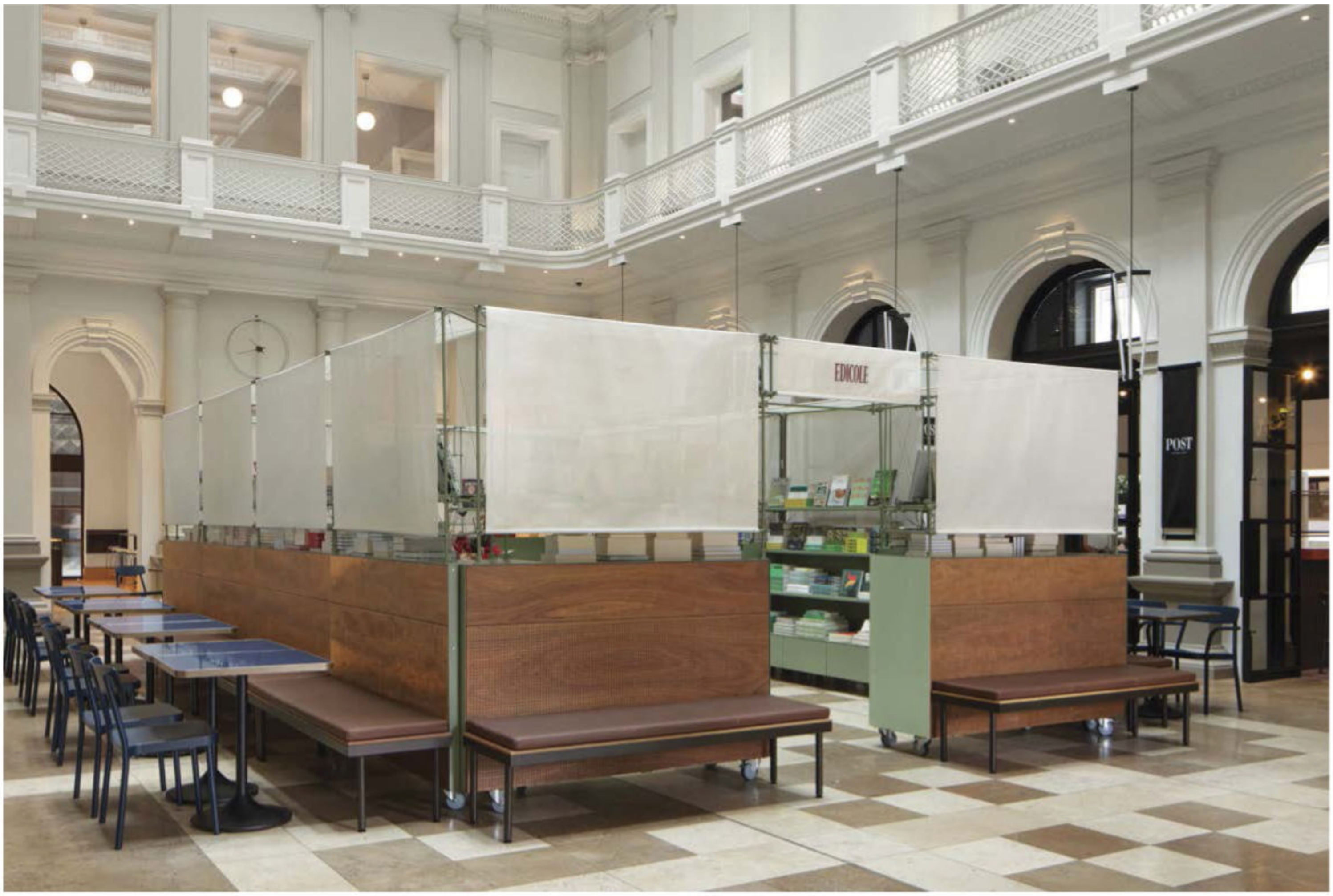
Metal also lends itself to a "kit of parts" approach. The waxed aluminium point of sale (POS) unit by Tres Joinery is designed like a Meccano set, where components lock together for easy assembly.

"You could literally dismantle it, take the six aluminium panels, and then reassemble them in a new space for a new POS system," Olaver explains.

Despite its modularity, it stands as a prominent, functional piece of furniture within the store.

More broadly, Olaver talks of the cost-of-living crisis and economic accessibility as something clients are paying closer attention to.

"Lately I've been finding clients not wanting their fit-out to look like they've spent a million dollars," he says. "They're conscious of their premises feeling accessible. In the instance of Kloke, the owners wanted the space to feel homely, and while it doesn't necessarily in a traditional sense, it definitely has a domestic scale."



With sustainability becoming an ever-more significant priority for both designers and consumers, the light touch design philosophy has gained prominence for its minimal resource impact and the ability to reveal a building's inherent character. Olaver Architecture's design exemplifies the potential to create something ephemeral that reads as a permanent structure, achieved through considered materiality and tactical design.

Postal Hall bookshop by Trower Falvo Architects

A bookshop situated within Perth's grand Postal Hall, designed by Trower Falvo Architects in collaboration with Alessio Fini Design, offers a pragmatic gesture for its opulent setting.

The core idea behind the design was to create a semi-permanent structure that could be demounted and stored within 30 minutes, allowing the hall space to remain flexible for weddings and public gatherings.

To achieve this, the architects engaged Frontline Interiors to craft custom componentry for the structure, which included simple materials such as tension wires, clamps, tubing, turnbuckles and keyrings. Trower Falvo co-director Simona Falvo explains that despite its bespoke design, it was a cost-effective option.

"The bookshop itself is essentially two modules that are repeated – there was an economy of scale in that approach," she says. "So, while our material choices were very bespoke, the economy of the design was a way to counterbalance that."

The Postal Hall itself is grand but verges on cavernous. Its vaulted ceilings and large floorplate provided a challenge in creating human-scale interaction. The bookshop, positioned centrally within the hall, anchors the space while ensuring the venue retains its community-centric purpose. Dayne Trower, co-director of Trower Falvo, explains, "We really wanted to emphasise the vertical dimension but also achieve visual lightness."

Retail design is increasingly focused on creating immersive, customer-centred experiences.
– Cassie **H**ansen

Drawing inspiration from turn-of-the-20th-century engineer Lawrence Hargrave's early kite assemblies, the architects devised a flexible, demountable solution that contrasts the whimsical with the gravitas of the hall. A lightweight scrim fabric, tensioned into place, acts as a diaphanous kite sail, mitigating dust accumulation on the books and providing an effective light-filtration device.

The design also had to integrate with the perimeter tenancies and activate the space, encouraging people to linger, shop and commune.

"Our ambition was to create a perimeter that could hold people in the space. It wasn't just about the retail offering or bookshop – it had to function on multiple levels. I think the perimeter of the intervention was just as important as the bookshop itself," Trower notes.

For the perimeter seating, Big River Group's spotted gum plywood was used as a nod to the historic timber postal booths, complemented by Eucalyptus green paint which references the Flower Day events that formerly took place in the space.

Trower Falvo's design for the Postal Hall bookshop underscores the shift towards flexibility, with a fully demountable structure that strengthens connections not only among customers but within the broader community. Through deliberate use of colour and materiality, the design activates the space, fosters civic memory and supports its mixed-use functionality.

Nagnata by Pattern

The Nagnata Byron Bay flagship, designed by Pattern, is an exploration of contrasting materiality and an abstraction of the yin-yang concept – principles synonymous with the fashion brand's ethos. No expense has been spared in the creation of the space, from custom finishes to the lavish lounge, upholstered in Raf Simons for Kvadrat velvet, which generously takes the space of extraneous retail racks. Bespoke elements, such as the hand-carved timber Shou Sugi Ban pillar and custom robe hooks designed by Byron-based artist Lex Williams, not only add texture but also weave Nagnata's connection to the local community into the store's narrative.

Arguably the pièce de résistance is the POS – a striking artwork in itself, more akin to a sculptural installation than a typical checkout. Crafted from dramatically veined Nero Marquina and Golden Spider Marble from Mediterranean Marble, the Brutalism-inspired design strikes a balance between dark and light, honed and raw.

What's interesting is that it's not immediately apparent that you're in a retail environment. Each piece specified could easily be found within a home, opening the store to multiple uses. Pattern co-director Lily Goodwin explains that the design prioritises multifunctionality: "The seating elements throughout the store speak to Nagnata's community aspect; customers are invited for events and

Above: Nagnata's POS unit by Mediterranean Marble. Photo: Tom Ross. Opposite above and below: Postal Hall bookshop's custom Euculyptus-painted componentry by Frontline Interiors. Both photos: Ben Hosking.

presentations," she says. "The store is more dynamic than a traditional retail environment."

According to the brand, "Nagnata's garments feel equally at home in a Sydney Pilates studio, an LA dancefloor or at a Mallorcan cocktail hour" – a sentiment perfectly captured by the considered lighting design. A procession of linear LED luminaires run centrally through the ceiling, designed to mimic the natural light cycle from dawn to dusk. After dark, Ambience Lighting's controllable RGB lighting transforms the store, bathing the space in vibrant colours and shifting the atmosphere from serene to electrifying.

The Nagnata fit-out embodies an authentic physical, offline representation of the brand, creating an inviting, warm, and inclusive space for both customers and the broader community. Goodwin adds, "The physical space should offer customers something they can't get through e-commerce. It should feel inviting, inspiring, and bespoke to the brand."

Sarah and Sebastian by Richards Stanisich

Arguably one of the most captivating stores to open recently is the new Sarah and Sebastian boutique in Armadale, designed by Richards Stanisich. The design plays with scale, creating intimate spaces that evoke the feeling of a home while being adorned with varying raw, refined and crafted elements. A shimmering gilded roof and phosphorescent green epoxy flooring line the spine of the store, while lavish smocked linen drapes and ruched banquette seating add tactile comfort.

"The brief from Sarah and Sebastian was to introduce a feeling of walking through a beautiful house," practice founder Kirsten Stanisich explains. "We designed a series of split archways and rippled glass doorways to subtly delineate a sense of different rooms within the store. This helps to create a residential experience – the sense of entry from the public sphere of the street and the transition to the more intimate spaces within the store."

The material selection and tonality also provide a nod to Sarah and Sebastian's design aesthetic which encapsulates the sculptural elements of the ocean, craftsmanship and fine industrial design. "We really focused on this in our materials selections and detailing," says Stanisich.

A number of craftspeople were engaged to experiment with and create bespoke material prototypes for the space. Local artisan Luke Price, of Outlines Architectural Mirror Finishes, was working on a water-gilded art piece to sit above the mantle in the showroom. During the project, he noticed that the ceiling hadn't been tendered and proposed creating a custom concept, which Richards Stanisich were keen to pursue. Price enlisted the help of Reuben Rich from Rich and Davis Framemakers, specialists in gilding surfaces. The piece became a true labour of love that involved several iterations and a meticulous installation process.

The process began with sealing the ceiling, followed by texturing it with gesso and

This page: Nagnata's controllable RGB luminaires by Ambience Lighting. Photo: Tom Ross.
Opposite above and below: Sarah and Sebastian's Armadale boutique entrance. Both photos: Lillie Thompson.

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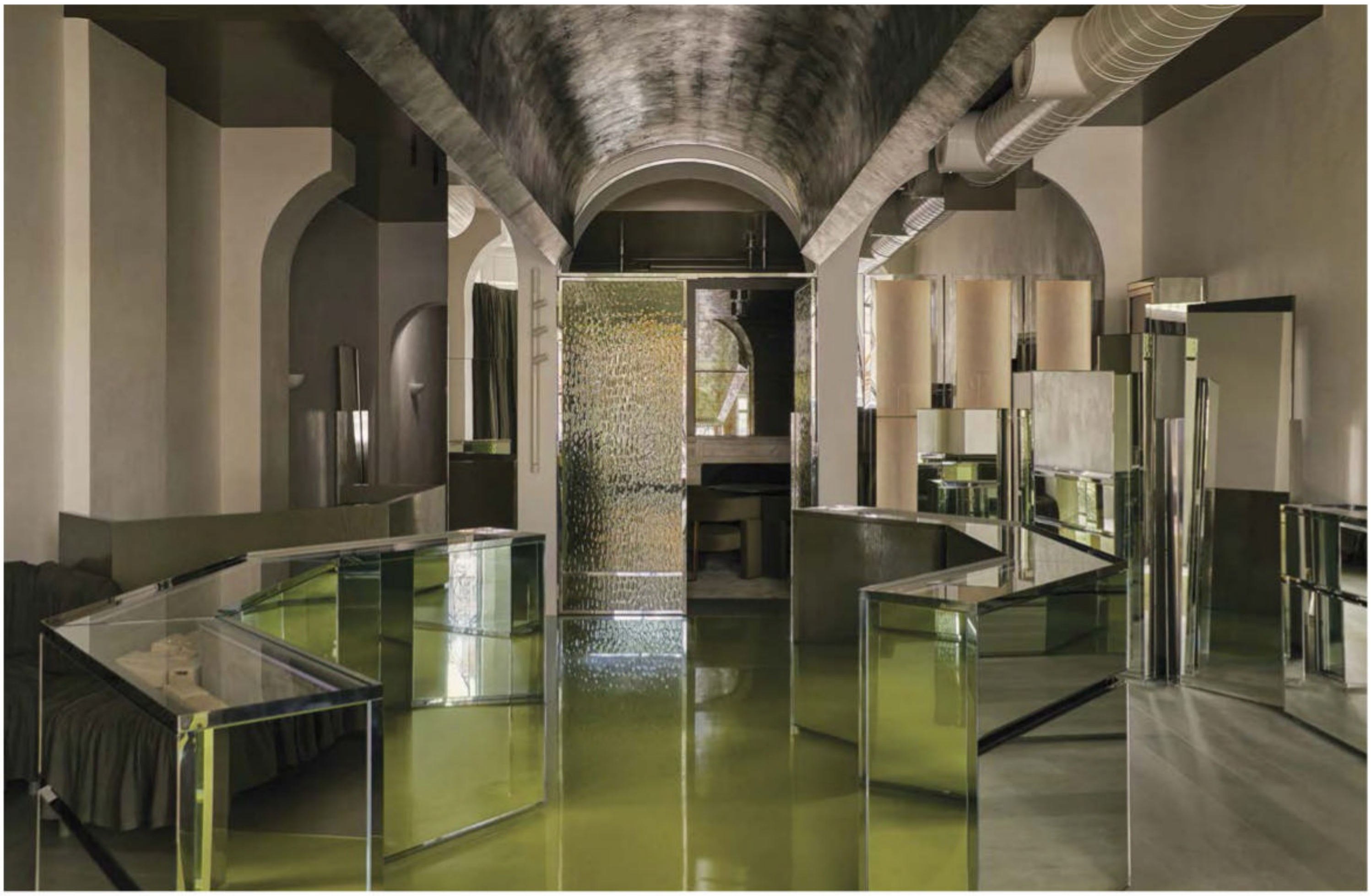
[1] *Australian Bureau of Statistics. Retail Trade, Australia, January 2025.*

[2] *L.E.K. Consulting Survey. Generational Shopping Behaviour: How Gen Z Shops.*



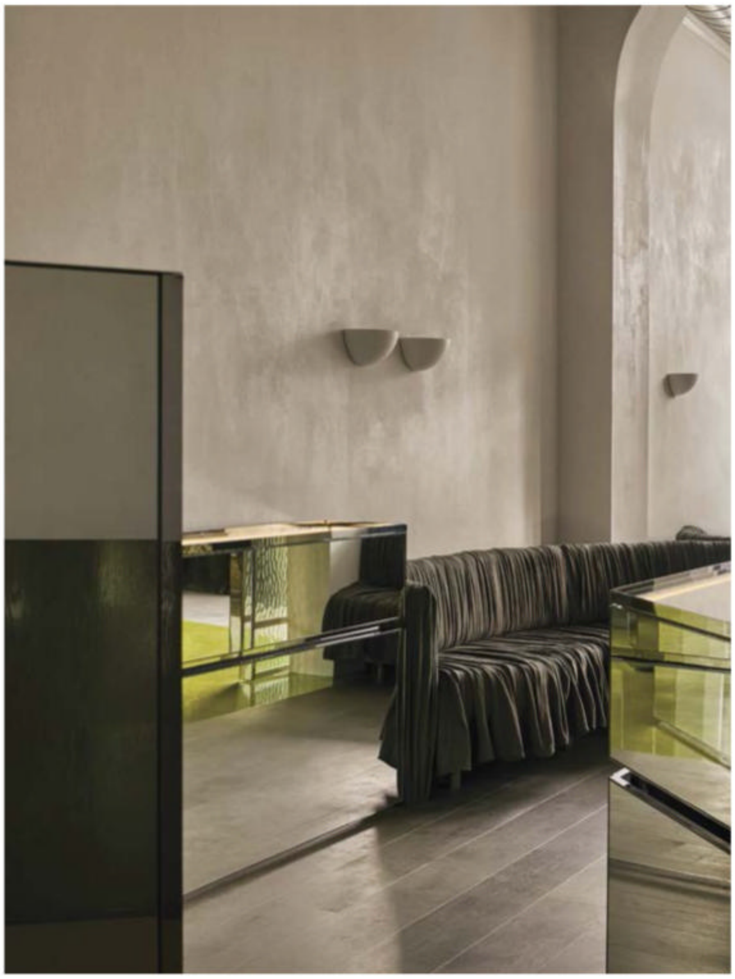
plaster. Aluminium leaf was applied, then a wash of Japanese black glaze, and further texturing was done. This detailed work took five evenings to complete. While silvering is not unusual, the custom texturing achieved by the team for this fit-out is rare. “Luke and Rueben’s expertise around the gilding process was incredible,” says Stanisich.

The team also worked with Dulux to achieve the glossy green flooring, and with a dressmaker who crafted upholstery inspired by the unique texture and tactility of ocean kelp.

Opulent fit-outs for luxury brands like Sarah and Sebastian aren’t new, but the level of bespoke detailing and conceptual creativity deliver a completely immersive experience for the brand’s customers.

Having completed several retail fit-outs, Kirsten Stanisich explains that authentically representing the brand is a core part of the offline retail experience, something she embraces when designing spaces that need to compete with the digital marketplace. “More retail brands are understanding the value of design and the impact it can have on the brick-and-mortar experience,” she says. “A lot of the good retail businesses are exploring the idea of unique designs for each of their stores but all with a shared design DNA that expresses the values of their brand. Previously there was more of an adherence to strict design guidelines and an abundance of identical designs across store design.”

It seems the question we should be asking when approaching retail design is, “Why shop in-store when you can shop online?” Each of these designers have articulated the answer in their own way by creating spaces that provide something online shopping can’t – an immersive, personalised and physically and socially engaging experience. Each project uses products and materials to reimagine the physical store as more than a point of purchase, focusing on experiences that appeal to the senses and foster real-world interactions.



Sound bites

How to amplify the performance of architectural products in dining environments.

by Sylvia Jones

We've probably all been to a restaurant where the food is great, but high levels of noise mean that you miss out on half the conversation and leave the venue feeling dazed and confused. It can be an especially isolating experience for people with hearing difficulties. Effective communication is central to the connection of a shared meal, but no one wants to eat in a cone of silence, so how do we go about achieving the right acoustic quality?

First, it helps to understand why these places get so noisy, which boils down to two key factors: the space and sound source.

The space

"Reverberance" refers to the persistence of sound in a space after the original sound source has stopped. It is influenced by a room's spatial volume and the amount of acoustically absorptive materials present. A lack of sound-absorptive finishes can increase ambient noise levels, which makes it difficult to communicate. By sound absorptive finishes, we mean "soft" surfaces – fabrics, fibres or foam, which are not always practical to maintain in a hospitality setting.

The sound source

The number of occupants, how many are speaking simultaneously and their spatial relationship influence the noise level generated. The noisier the environment, the louder people must speak to be heard (this feedback process is known as the "Lombard effect"); the addition of alcohol amplifies this effect further. When you layer in noise from other activities – from the kitchen, the bar, the coffee grinder, the air conditioning, the amplified music – things can get loud.[1]

There are several strategies that designers and restaurateurs can adopt to create their ideal acoustic environment.

One of the simplest strategies comes down to mindful planning. Buffering high activation zones from noise-sensitive dining areas – for example, with walkways,

Above left: Autex's ASL Reclaim acoustic product. Photo: Carmen Zammit.
Above right and opposite: Äng Restaurant, Sweden by Norm Architects featuring Kvadrat acoustic product. Photo: Jonas Bjerre-Poulsen.

screens and furniture – can help to maintain a sense of vibrancy within the space while minimising disruption to diners. By controlling some of the undesirable noise, it becomes possible to curate the aural ambience: reserving places of refuge for relaxed conversations, or creating a high-energy, theatrical atmosphere. You can layer this further by introducing background music, tailored to complement the time of day. A customised sound system allows for targeted coverage without having to excite the whole space with high noise levels; a highly sophisticated solution can even dynamically adjust the ambient noise.

The next strategy is to focus on furniture arrangement. Table sizes, and their proximity to each other, have a direct influence on the number of simultaneous conversations: smaller groups of four people around a single table are more likely to have an exclusive four-way conversation, while longer tables encourage multiple simultaneous conversations with different nearby partners, gradually raising the noise level to be heard over their neighbour.

When you have the opportunity to renovate or fit out a new space, the principles above are further enhanced by careful selection of finishes. When considered early in the design, acoustic finishes can be integrated sympathetically, with limited cost impact. Sound absorptive finishes are not a silver bullet – you need a lot of surface area to make a noticeable difference in a space – but they can make a big impact when used thoughtfully.

Key points include:

- Installing acoustically absorptive finishes wherever it is practicable to do so, typically on the ceiling, walls and floor. The finishes must be exposed to the sound reflections to be effective.
- Choosing a high-performance product does not necessarily mean a more expensive product, but it will generally achieve a better outcome.[2] There are plenty of inexpensive options such as glasswool or polyester batts that can blend into the background, or be artfully obscured behind decorative battens with a suitable open area.
- Sound-absorptive finishes are very effective at head height, and choosing a semi-rigid polyester panel or a wood wool finish provides better protection against potential contact. Integrating sound absorption into furniture like banquet seating, either through customised joinery or by using proprietary perforated timber finishes, offers localised benefits.
- Carpet tiles also provide modest sound absorption but have the added benefit of minimising footfall noise, chair scrapes and clatter from dropped cutlery.
- Introducing a perforated lining (such as timber or plasterboard) in front of soft acoustic finishes can improve their durability. Be careful when finishing these surfaces because paint, varnish and adhesives can

When considered early in the design, acoustic finishes can be integrated sympathetically.

  block the permeability of the perforations, which reduces their performance.
- There is a huge variety of acoustic finishes available on the market to match your aesthetic and budget. Companies like Autex offer customised digitally printed finishes, enabling colour and graphical texture matching – especially useful in heritage spaces.

Case Study: The Dining Hall at Trinity College

I was recently involved in the renovation of the Dining Hall at Trinity College. This historical space dates back to 1880 and regularly accommodates several hundred people for formal dinners and communal eating throughout the week. Its high ceiling and hard, acoustically reflective surfaces contribute to high levels of noise in the space, making verbal communication difficult, so Trinity College commissioned Arup to provide acoustic guidance when the dining hall was expanded as part of the college's broader Kitchens Precinct redevelopment.

Working closely with architectural practice Hayball, we developed an interior scheme that included Kvadrat Soft Cells pre-fabricated acoustic panels on the side walls. These panels use acoustic padding behind a textile layer stretched over a frame, and provide a backdrop to display the portraiture of Trinity College's founders and notable alumni. The acoustic panels have introduced a large area of sound-absorbing surfaces at head height, reducing the reverberant noise level in the space.

The adjacent servery and cafe space is a new addition to the precinct, where a waffle-style ceiling integrates timber perforated acoustic panels into the coffers, helping to counteract the sound-reflective floor and glazing.

Final thoughts

We all know firsthand how excessive noise can impact a dining experience, but a few simple strategies can make all the difference. By integrating materials that absorb sound, and planning to minimise acoustic disruptions, we can create spaces that cater to all the senses – where people talk about the acoustics for the right reasons.

---

[1] *How loud is too loud? Typically, ambient noise levels above 75 dB(A) are considered noisy for a restaurant and will make conversations difficult. dB(A) denotes a single-number sound pressure level, in decibels, that includes a frequency weighting ('A-weighting') to reflect the subjective loudness of the sound experienced across the frequency range of human hearing.*

[2] *The acoustic performance of sound absorptive finishes is typically described using a noise reduction coefficient (NRC) rating. This is a simplified single-number index that provides an indication of the sound-absorbing efficiency of a material, typically ranging from 0 (not absorptive) to 1 (highly absorptive).*

Opposite and above: Trinity College dining hall expansion designed by Hayball, with acoustic consulting by Arup.
Photo: Henry Lam.

About Sylvia Jones

Sylvia Jones is an associate at Arup, where she has worked as an acoustic consultant in the engineering firm's Melbourne office for the past 24 years. During her career, she has delivered the acoustic design for several high-profile projects, including the Melbourne Recital Centre, the State Library of Victoria redevelopment, and Alba Thermal Springs and Spa. Sylvia's diverse expertise spans a wide range of sectors within the built environment and extends to international markets, enabling her to craft innovative aural environments.

A bright future

Fiona Lynch discusses the online sustainable material resource Future Archive five years on.

by Olivia Round

Opposite: Kiln Restaurant's striking blue resin feature wall. Photo: Pablo Veiga. Below: Fiona Lynch. Photo: Amelia Stanwix.

Fiona Lynch Studio has long been an innovator when it comes to materiality. From graffitied walls to shou sugi ban charred timber furniture-meets-art, Lynch and her team continually push the creative boundaries of product specification in a way that transcends trends. So, if Fiona suggests an electric blue resin feature wall, trust her.

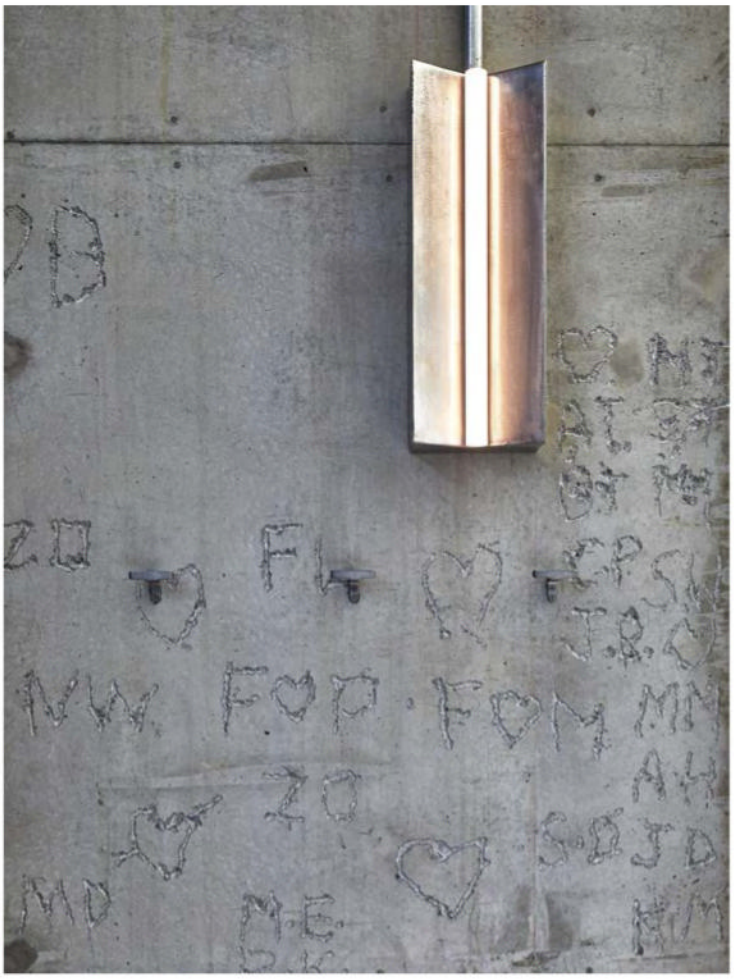
In 2020, the Melbourne-based practice launched Future Archive, an open resource of sustainable architectural materials, designed to foster knowledge sharing and product discovery.

The idea came about when Lynch received a link to a website listing nearly every architectural material on the market. With around 5,000 to 10,000 new products launched weekly, that's a lot of content to wade through.[1] "It's an amazing material library," Lynch says, "but it's a nightmare to navigate, and some products aren't that aesthetic." Future Archive reimagines the database with hand-selected products that represent sustainability, innovation and visual appeal.

ArchitectureAu Products editor Olivia Round caught up with Lynch to discuss the project's development five years on from its inception.

Olivia Round: How has Future Archive evolved over the past five years?

Fiona Lynch: We have one of our young designers uploading two to three products a week. I was looking at it the other day and was really happy to see how many entries we have now, but as a team, we just need to remember to use it. Recently, we were working on a project and couldn't find a sustainable material for a furniture piece. I said, "Oh my god, look at our



We've trained ourselves to look for alternative materials we could use instead of relying on the usual go-tos.
– Fiona Lynch

website!" And that's where we found the material we needed. I think there's probably too much information out there. Sometimes it's right in front of you and you forget to use it.

OR: How does your team go about discovering new materials for Future Archive?

FL: We have a range of websites that we refer to for research. You can even type 'sustainable material' into Instagram and a whole lot of products will pop up. Many creative, passionate people are making amazing materials, but they might not have the resources to promote them – it's about discovering those hidden gems. One example is Zeoform from Byron Bay, which is a pressed cellulose waste board, similar to MDF, but it doesn't use any glue or synthetic materials. They're currently waiting to partner with someone who can help them take it to market.

OR: Are there any emerging materials (or material compositions) that you think will become staples in future?

FL: I think organic materials, like cork and mussels, will become more common. Material designer Phoebe Quare, for example, has been making plaster dust from mussels. I'm also fascinated by waste products being turned into building materials. For Kiln restaurant at Ace Hotel in Sydney, we salvaged materials from the site, including bricks, rust, terracotta and charcoal, which were then crushed up to create unique pigments that Spacecraft Studio then hand-splattered onto Belgian linen to resemble painter's drop sheets.

OR: It came up beautifully. What's your appetite for risk and trialling new products in your own designs?

FL: We've trained ourselves to look for alternative materials we could use instead of relying on the usual go-tos. Of course, it depends on the client and whether they've got an interest

Opposite left: Fabric painted with pigments created from site waste at Kiln Restaurant. Opposite right and below: Concrete columns etched with graffiti by artist Benzo and the painted cardboard bar at CicciaBella in Parramatta. All photos: Pablo Veiga.

in sustainable materials. I think we'll see more variety in materials like plasterboard, such as Honext-certified carbon-negative boards or Saveboard made from demolition waste. It'll be the larger companies – the James Hardies – that will start supplying these products once they recognise the demand, especially as more government regulations surrounding sustainability come into play.

OR: For designers who are facing value management, are there certain products that strike a balance between sustainability, aesthetics and cost?

FL: We were working on a restaurant project where the client didn't have budget for stone, so we opted for a painted cardboard to clad the front of the bar instead!

OR: How did you specify that?

FL: Good question. You can get it cut to typical MDF dimensions and we just applied it as you would any other product. It was a bit of an experiment as we hadn't worked with cardboard in this format previously, but we were really pleased with the outcome and so was our client. Sometimes it pays to take risks with different material applications.

OR: What are a few of your favourite products on Future Archive?

FL: Anything by Jessie French! She's a Melbourne-based artist making products from algae, like decals for retail windows. Hopefully, someone in the industry will support her financially – imagine having a range of 10 different colours of her product! Another one is Blue Shel(l)ter, which uses discarded mollusc shells to create decorative paint and mono-materials.[2]

OR: What has the project taught you about your own product specification?

FL: I had a teacher at RMIT who used to talk about sustainability,

Above: Zeofoam Micro Pulp product, primarily made from post-consumer waste paper, reinforced with industrial-strength hemp fibre. Photo: Jesse Bird, Zeoform. Opposite: Jessie French's Other Matter Architectural Film product showcased on the Aesop Hainan store, China. Photo: Jonathan Leijonhufvud.

> We've also dedicated part of our library to sustainable materials … so these products don't get mixed in with everything else.
> – **F**iona Lynch

but I found when I got into practice, no one was interested in it. So, it's great to see the turnaround that has happened. Now we're working with clients like Lendlease who are really passionate about sustainability and are more open to us specifying sustainable products. I think the key is considering how the materials will age. That's the riskiest part with some of these new materials – understanding how to seal, protect, and care for them.

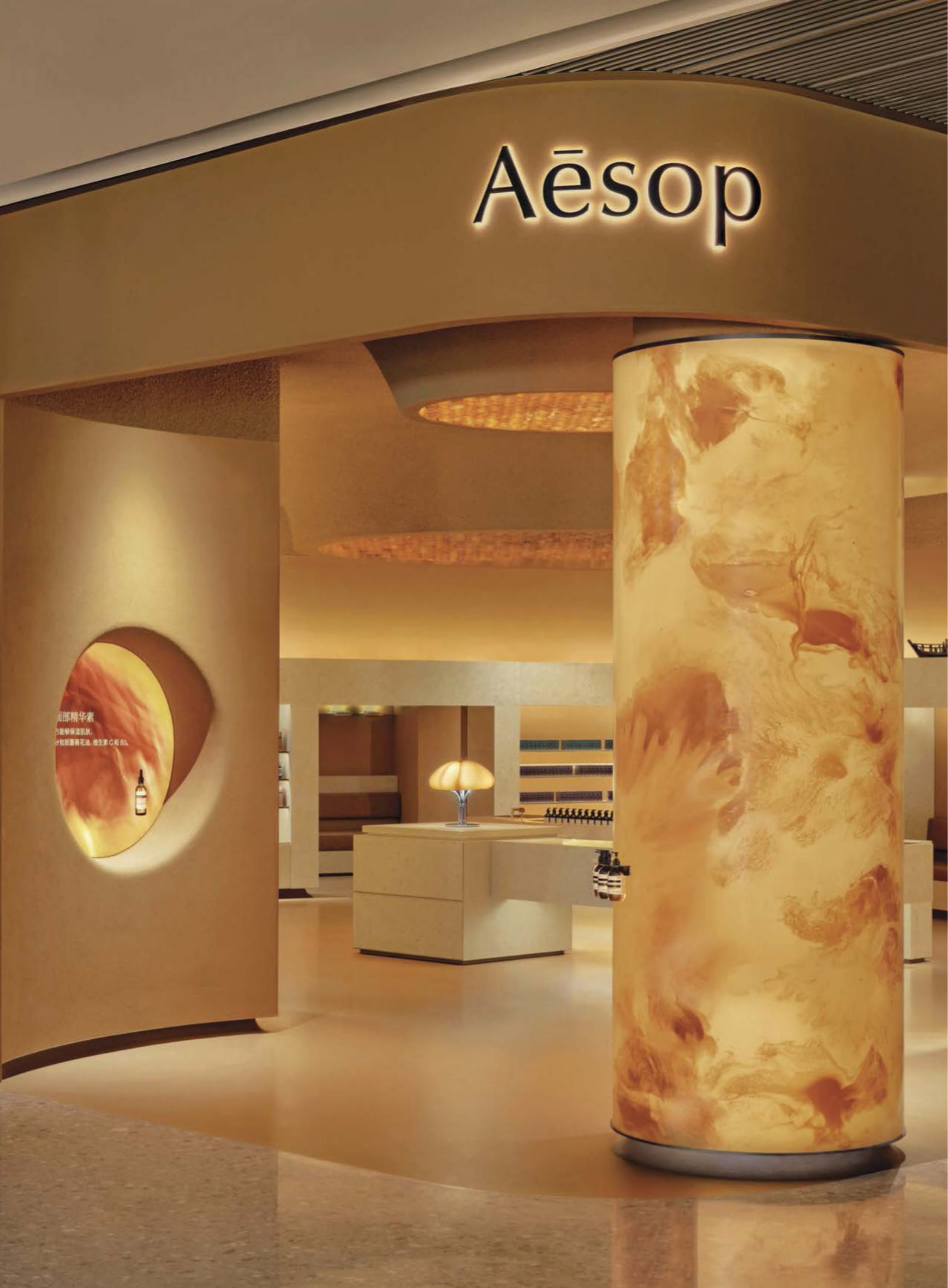
OR: **Do you have any tips for designers who are looking to experiment more with new materials?**

FL: Show-and-tell sessions are great. In our Monday meetings, we discuss the new materials we've found or are working with. It almost feels like being back at school, researching things, and that's where innovation comes from. We've also dedicated part of our library to sustainable materials, which I'd recommend to others, so these products don't get mixed in with everything else. It's an easy way to integrate more sustainable products into your projects.

---

[1] *A report by McKinsey & Company estimates that 5,000 to 10,000 new products are being launched globally each week across industries like technology, architecture, and industrial design.*

[2] *It is estimated that over 7 million tonnes of mollusc shells are discarded by the seafood industry globally each year.*


Aēsop
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ThermalHEART windows and doors from AWS

ThermalHEART technology underpins AWS's thermally efficient aluminium window and door systems, delivering excellent thermal performance for both residential and commercial applications. It allows for the integration of large, glazed areas without compromising energy efficiency or design intent.

These systems feature thermally broken aluminium frames, which significantly reduce the transfer of heat and cold. Compared to standard, non-thermally broken aluminium framing, they offer up to 51% improved thermal performance.

At the core of the system is a polyamide thermal break – a high-performance insulating strip inserted between the internal and external aluminium elements. This barrier greatly reduces thermal bridging and enhances insulation.

AWS's ThermalHEART systems are fully compliant with Australian building standards and energy efficiency regulations.
awsaustralia.com.au

A property designed by Level Architekture featuring AWS glazing. Photo: John Gollings.

Matte black Santorini sinks from Oliveri

Oliveri's new matte black Santorini sinks are manufactured in Italy from a premium composite of 80% granite and quartz, with 20% resin. This high-performance blend provides superior strength, heat resistance, and scratch durability, ensuring the sinks are highly resilient and able to withstand the rigours of daily use in both residential and commercial environments.

The matte black finish not only delivers a sophisticated, modern aesthetic but also pairs seamlessly with a variety of contemporary tapware finishes, including matte black, brushed nickel, and gunmetal. The moulded granite design contributes to the sink's robust, uniform surface, ensuring long-lasting structural integrity and a refined, polished appearance.

Key functional features include an integrated overflow system, which effectively manages water flow and minimises the risk of spills, maintaining cleanliness and efficiency in high-traffic spaces. This is complemented by the sink's superior resistance to staining, scratching, and thermal shock, making it a reliable choice for demanding kitchen and laundry applications.

The Santorini range offers a harmonious balance of cutting-edge craftsmanship, timeless design, and practical functionality, making it an ideal selection for specifiers looking for a high-quality, durable solution for their projects.
oliveri.com.au

The matte black colourway allows specifiers to achieve a striking, monochomatic kitchen scheme.

Fino collection restroom accessories from Bobrick

Bobrick's Fino Collection features a refined design and is crafted with premium satin-finish stainless steel. Concealed hardware enhances the minimalist aesthetic, ensuring a sleek and sophisticated look.

Now available in a luxurious Matte Black finish, the collection allows designers to achieve bold contrast, creating a contemporary aesthetic. The Matte Black finish complements light-toned interiors by providing a striking focal point, while seamlessly integrating into darker palettes.

Beyond its visual appeal, the range is highly durable, featuring easy-to-clean surfaces that resist smudges and fingerprints.

Fino's grab bars are available in satin finish or matte black.

Designed to meet the needs of modern public and commercial spaces, the collection includes a comprehensive range of products, such as paper towel dispensers, waste bins, hand dryers, grab bars, toilet tissue dispensers, and garment hooks. Each piece is engineered for efficiency and ease of use, ensuring an intuitive experience for all users.

bobrick.com

Ace height adjustment range by Krost

Ace is a height-adjustable workstation range that redefines the standards of contemporary office furniture. Characterised by a sleek, rounded profile and minimalist design, Ace combines form with function, delivering an adaptable solution to modern work environments. This system supports seamless transitions between sitting and standing, fostering engagement and enhancing focus throughout the day.

Engineered with precision, Ace features a dual motor system for quiet, smooth height adjustment. The intuitive controls allow users to personalise their workstations easily, offering a high level of flexibility without disruption. The system's design integrates discreet cable management, ensuring an organised workspace while preserving a clean aesthetic.

The signature tubular frame of Ace provides structural integrity while maintaining a light, balanced visual appeal. Horizontal beams contribute to the system's flexibility, offering stability across diverse spatial configurations. Its soft, rounded worktop and sculpted leg profile further elevate the design, creating workspaces that promote openness and fluidity.

krost.com.au

Ace's furniture prioritises ergonomics and supports modern modes of working.

Wall-to-wall shower channels specified for Victoria & Vine

Allproof supplied custom drainage solutions for Victoria & Vine, a New York-inspired development in Collingwood, Melbourne, designed by Cox Architecture and built by Hickory. The project comprises 241 apartments, including a $7 million penthouse, and required high-specification finishes throughout.

To meet aesthetic and performance requirements, wall-to-wall linear shower channels were specified. Custom-fabricated Vision Shower Channels enabled precise integration with each layout, addressing detailed design needs. Standard drainage systems are often challenged by on-site variations such as tile thickness, dimensional shifts, or spatial constraints from structure and services. Custom fabrication resolved these issues while maintaining consistency and performance.

A compressed construction program added further complexity. Allproof's ability to deliver site-specific components to schedule supported timelines and allowed design flexibility. Vision Channels also aligned with passive fire protection and floor waste locations.

Projects of this scale benefit from suppliers experienced in tailored solutions. Allproof provided the adaptability required to meet performance, compliance, and design expectations within a constrained construction environment.
allproof.com.au

Shower channels provide seamless integration with tiles for a clean finish.

Liano Collection from Caroma

The May 2025 release of Caroma's Liano Collection marks a significant expansion in both design and functionality. This updated range offers a broader selection of tapware, showers, and accessories, highlighted by the introduction of a luxurious PVD brushed bronze finish. With finishes also available in brushed brass, brushed nickel, gunmetal, chrome, and matte black, the collection allows for design flexibility and personalisation.

Drawing on inspiration from timeless, refined aesthetics, the collection combines elegant circular geometries with precision engineering to deliver a sophisticated yet durable product. Designed and manufactured in Australia, the range stands as a benchmark in contemporary bathroom design, offering both style and robust performance.

Key iterations include a new range of shower options, such as a microphone hand shower with three spray functions, a 300 mm rain shower, and a gooseneck rail, alongside a generous circular overhead. The expanded accessory offering includes robe hooks, toilet roll holders, towel rings, and soap bottle holders. A new freestanding bath filler, featuring a gooseneck design with a three-function handpiece and flexible outlet rotation, adds further luxury and versatility.
caroma.com

The updated range features several finishes, including brass (pictured), nickel, gunmetal chrome and matte black.

Next Generation Woodgrains from Laminex

The Laminex Next Generation Woodgrains product line provides advanced surface solutions for Australian interiors, with a focus on authenticity, scale, and durability. This includes six new decors from the Australian Natives Collection, which replicate the natural textures and patterns of Australian woodgrains. These decors maintain consistency in colour, grain, and finish, reflecting the Australian landscape.

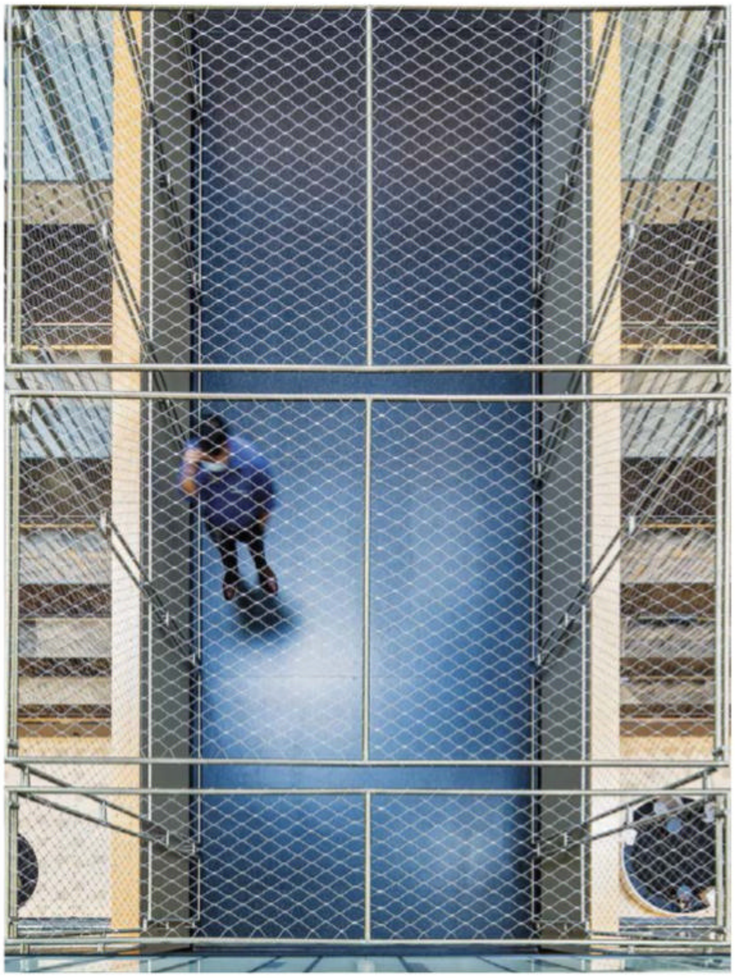
Utilising new technologies, the range achieves an authentic timber look and feel. Laminex's AbsoluteGrain finish features subtle textural variation and intricate detailing that closely mimics the characteristics of natural wood. TrueScale technology eliminates design repetition, allowing for large-scale patterns without visual disruption.

These innovations make the Next Generation Woodgrains a practical alternative to traditional timber veneers. Extensive research and development has produced a premium surface that combines durability with a high level of realism. Suitable for both residential and commercial applications, these woodgrains provide a quality solution for Australian designers, incorporating the aesthetic of native timber into interiors.

laminex.com.au

A design by CJH Studio featuring Next Generation Woodgrains. 3D visualisation by Gabriel Saunders.

Tensile's Webnet Frames used in hospital atriums



The Webnet Frame system at Northern Beaches Hospital exemplifies the seamless integration of safety and design within critical healthcare environments.

This retrofit solution addressed significant safety concerns in two seven-story atriums while preserving the hospital's open, connected atmosphere, crucial for its healing environment.

In the wake of COVID-19 restrictions, Tensile developed an innovative approach using custom-fabricated frames with 60 mm x 1.5 mm Webnet mesh. This solution minimised onsite installation time, reducing disruption to hospital operations.

The near-transparent barriers maintain visual connectivity between floors while providing comprehensive fall protection. By mounting pre-assembled frames to existing balustrades, the installation blends seamlessly with the original architectural design, rather than appearing as a retrofit. The design incorporates aesthetic elements that complement the building's existing features. Custom Webnet ID plates in a droplet pattern echo the fretting on the glass balustrades, creating visual continuity throughout the space.

This solution sets a new benchmark for retrofitting safety features in healthcare facilities without compromising design or operational needs.

tensile.com.au

This retrofitted solution ensured speed of installation in a busy hospital environment.

Joseph Giles hardware from The English Tapware Company

Joseph Giles, a distinguished British specialist in luxury architectural hardware, boasts an impressive portfolio that spans significant residential and commercial projects worldwide. With a strong commitment to British heritage, the company excels in creating original designs and collaborating with skilled artisans across Britain to deliver quality products.

Their dedication to design has fostered the development of unique products, earning them a reputation as a global leader in luxury architectural hardware. The company continues to innovate with premium architectural hardware, including orange and yellow body locks featuring durable, ceramic-coated finishes that are both ageless and robust. Their wardrobe collection sets new standards, incorporating solid brass hanging rails and garment hangers that blend elegance with durability.

Additionally, Joseph Giles now offers custom-width stair rods in Ornate, Industrial, and Minimal styles, ensuring a seamless fit for any design aesthetic.

englishtapware.com.au

The premium hardware range includes handles, drawer pulls, rails and more.

Wolf induction cooktops

With precise temperature control and style at the forefront of its design, the Wolf induction cooktop combines efficient cooking technology with a sleek aesthetic. Its intuitive touchscreen functionality makes advanced features easily accessible.

The design generates a magnetic field that directly heats the cookware, ensuring efficient and even heat distribution. This results in fast responsiveness and precise control. Sensors regulate cooking zones to simmer, melt, and warm without scorching, while the rest of the cooktop remains relatively cool for safety and easy cleaning.

Key features include Boost Mode for rapid boiling, a bridge function that combines two induction zones into one large cooking area (perfect for an induction-compatible griddle), independent zone timers, and a double-tap "zone off" feature for quick adjustments.

Available in two widths, the cooktops boast a minimalist design that seamlessly integrates into any benchtop. Crafted from high-quality materials, the design reflects decades of engineering expertise.

au.subzero-wolf.com

Wolf induction cooktops offer even heat distribution and fast responsiveness.

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Where design meets inclusivity in high risk and high care environments.

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Seamless Acoustic Treatment from Ecko Solutions

Ecko Solutions' Seamless Acoustic Treatment system is designed for high-performance sound absorption in contemporary architectural interiors, where both acoustic control and aesthetic integrity are paramount. The system provides a continuous surface without visible joints, ensuring a clean, minimalist appearance.

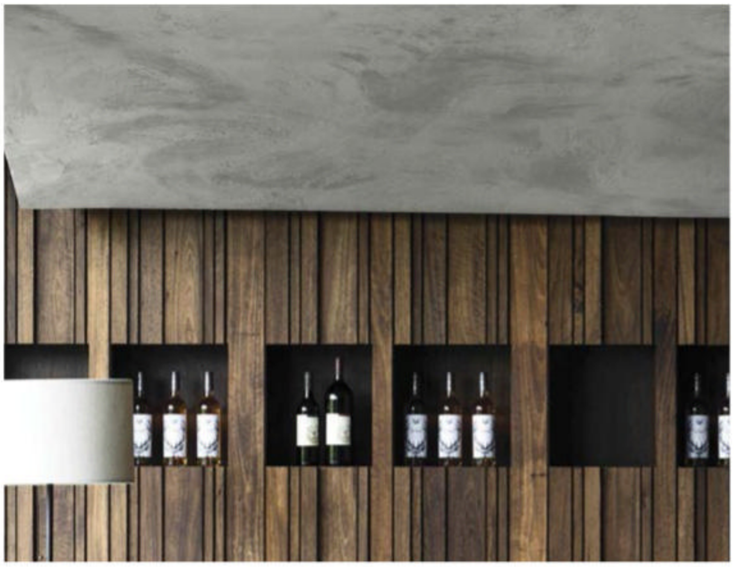
With a noise reduction coefficient (NRC) of up to 0.9, it delivers superior acoustic performance while maintaining a visually cohesive environment. This system integrates seamlessly with other building services, such as lighting and air conditioning, facilitating compliance with technical requirements without disrupting the overall design.

Specified in key Australian projects like the Art Gallery of New South Wales (Sydney Modern), Louis Vuitton at Sydney Airport, and the 555 Collins Street lobby in Melbourne, the product has proven its ability to combine precision with elegance in high-end environments.

The finishes available range from ultra-smooth to textured surfaces, with custom colours and decorative effects, including concrete or stone-look options, accommodating diverse design visions.

Adaptable to large areas and complex geometries, the product is flexible enough to be shaped on-site to meet specific spatial requirements. The Ecko Solutions team are also on-hand to provide project advice, technical guidance, and on-site assistance to ensure efficient and seamlessly integrated installation of the product.

ecko solutions.com.au



St Hubert's Winery designed by Cera Stribley. Photo: Dianna Snape.

Ona complete bathroom collection by Roca

Roca's Mediterranean-inspired Ona collection offers a complete range of solutions for residential and commercial bathrooms, including high-traffic settings, such as hotels.

The collection includes basins, furniture, baths, toilets, tapware and accessories with soft shapes and geometric lines that reflect the Mediterranean landscape. The name Ona, meaning 'wave' in Catalan, captures this inspiration.

The versatile drop-in and corner-profile baths have balanced lines and organic shapes. Ona toilets are available as close-coupled, floorstanding, or wall-hung models, and the tapware comes in five sleek finishes.

Developed by Roca Design Center in collaboration with international studios Noa Design and Benedito Design, Ona's Fineceramic basins are slim, lightweight, and customisable in size.

Fineceramic also supports a more sustainable production process than traditional ceramics, generating zero waste, using natural composites, and emitting less CO_2 during firing and transport.

roca.com.au

Roca joined forces with international firms Noa Design and Benedito Design to deliver the Mediterranean-inspired range.

The Vask collection from Phoenix

The Vask collection from Phoenix features a range of sophisticated mixers inspired by mid-century modern design, characterised by clean lines, organic curves, and a distinctive pin lever. Drawing from the design principles of icons like Charles and Ray Eames and Arne Jacobsen, the collection combines style and functionality, earning international recognition, including a 2025 iF Design Award.

The pin-up and pin-down handle mixers are designed for compatibility with the SwitchMix system, making it easy to change finishes and designs as needed. Additionally, the new SwitchMix pin-up cartridge offers greater flexibility, allowing the rough-in to be easily adapted for either pin-up or pin-down configurations.

The mid-century modern inspired design is available in several finishes, including brushed gold and brushed carbon (pictured).

Four modern finishes include chrome, brushed nickel, brushed gold, and brushed carbon, ensuring seamless integration within any bathroom or kitchen design. The range is also designed to complement showers from Phoenix's Ormond and Nuage collections.

The Vask collection is in stock and ready for short lead-time delivery from Phoenix's Melbourne warehouse, distributed through retail and commercial merchants nationwide.
phoenixtapware.com.au

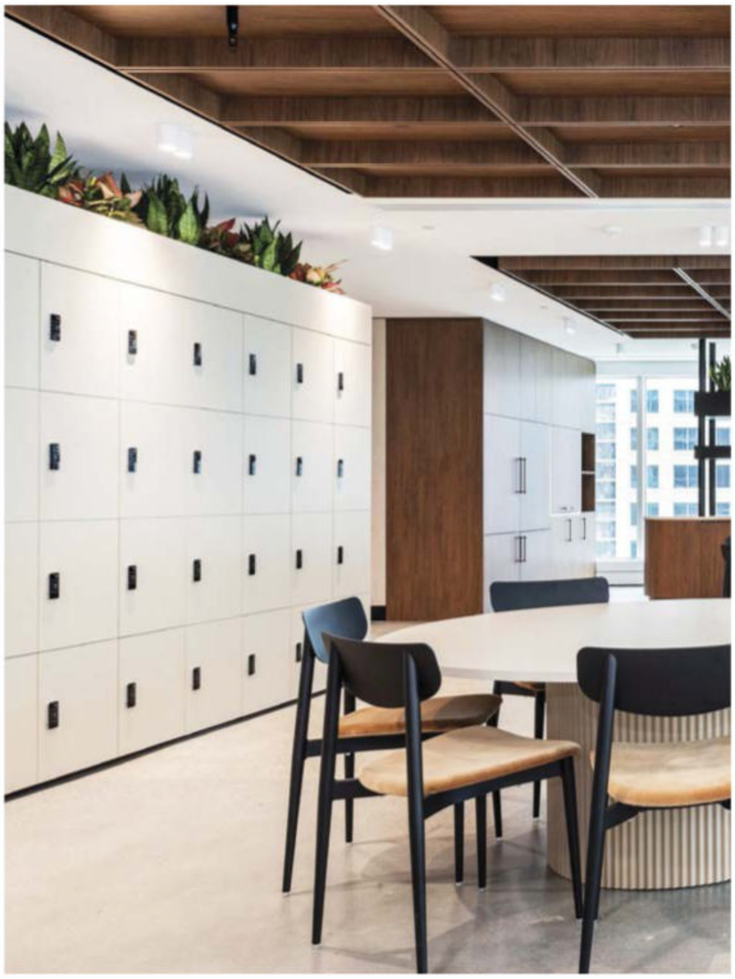
TwinPad Electronic Lock from BURG Australia

With a heritage rooted in German engineering since 1890, BURG has adapted to meet the demands of Australia's security sector, particularly within educational and office environments. Its RFID-enabled locking systems provide a sophisticated solution to access control, offering seamless integration in high-traffic, multi-level spaces.

BURG's advanced keyless systems feature up to 9,999 unique combinations, addressing both the complexities of traditional key management and modern governance requirements. The TwinPad lock, combining touchpad code access with RFID credential technology, is particularly effective in busy environments, ensuring enhanced security while maintaining ease of use. The systems are designed for retrofitting existing doors and cabinets, ensuring minimal disruption during installation.

In educational institutions, BURG's locks secure everything from lockers and laboratory equipment to faculty storage. In office settings, they extend to document storage, equipment cabinets, and personal workstations, ensuring robust security across various access points. BURG's handle systems, integrated with RFID technology, create a unified security network that can distinguish access privileges among staff, visitors, and management.
burgaustralia.au

BURG systems are designed to withstand high-traffic usage.



Discover

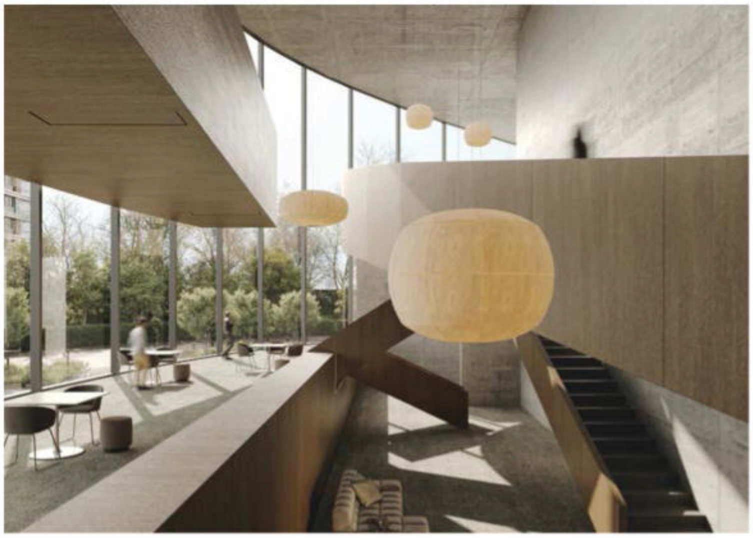
A spotlight on five new lighting products.

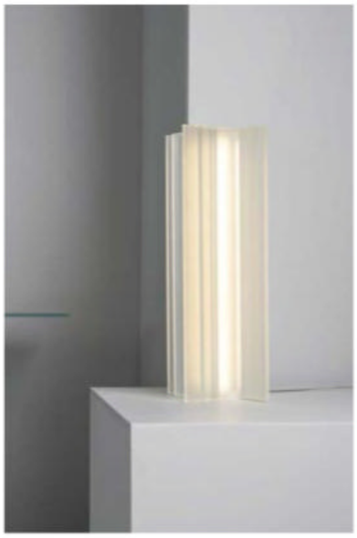
Big Glow

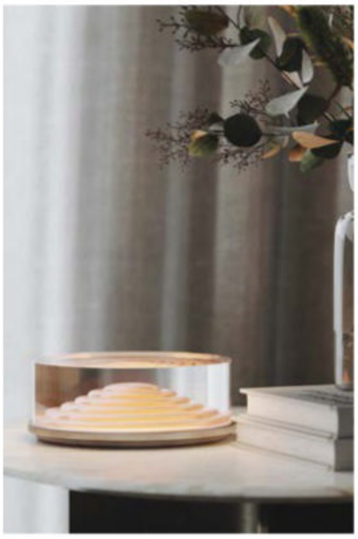
DESIGNER:
Studio Truly Truly

Launched at Milan Design Week in April, Studio Truly Truly's Big Glow range is crafted with Australian wool and plant-derived compostable fibre. The design, a collaboration with Woolmark and Rakumba, offers sound absorption, light diffusion and independent downward illumination.

rakumba.com.au





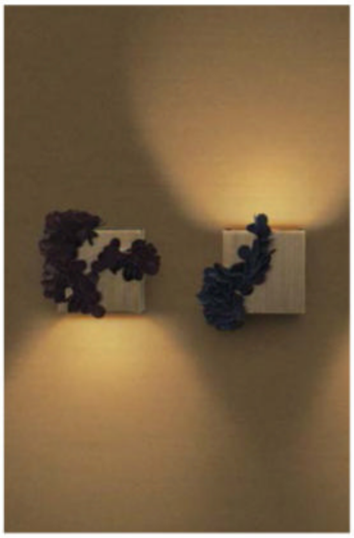


Barnacles Wall Sconce

DESIGNER:
Articolo Studios

The Barnacles Wall Sconce by Articolo Studios, created in collaboration with Australian artist Emma Davies, is inspired by the ocean. Each piece features a hand-finished metal casing, adorned with unique barnacle detailing.
Photo: Chris Budgeon.

articolostudios.com



Pillar

DESIGNER:
Dean Norton

Dean Norton's Pillar light integrates low-iron pearl glass and a dimmable LED in a sculptural, architectural form. Designed and made in Melbourne, it complements the broader Pillar collection with a focus on proportion, material quality, and functional simplicity.
Photo: Mischa Baka.

deannorton.com.au

Port

DESIGNER:
Tom Fereday

The Port light, designed by Tom Fereday with Rakumba, explores the refractive properties of cast crystal glass. Made from machined brass and raw glass, its modular base allows for both table and wall sconce configurations.

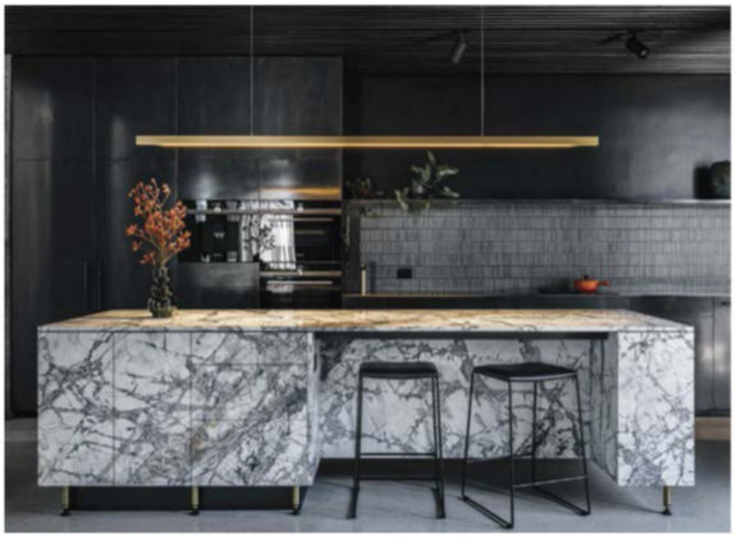
rakumba.com.au

Capital

DESIGNER:
Archier

Featuring a classic rectilinear form, Archier's Capital pendant light is understated enough to blend into any interior environment, yet makes a statement with its fluted detailing. Available in black, white or brass with an optional dimmer.
Photo: Adam Gibson.

archier.com.au



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AUSTRALIAN MADE

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Thermally sound

Kingspan's closed-cell insulation product supports bespoke designs and modular construction.

Kingspan's Kooltherm K12 Framing Board is a locally manufactured insulation designed for both commercial and residential applications. It suits timber and steel frame structures, making it a versatile option for various building types. This rigid, thermoset phenolic insulation is specifically engineered to reduce heat loss, supporting energy efficiency and compliance with the National Construction Code (NCC) 2022 requirements, while also contributing to a 7-star energy rating for homes.

What distinguishes Kooltherm K12 is its fibre-free, closed-cell core, which enhances thermal resistance and ensures a less irritating installation process due to its absence of airborne particles. Additionally, the board features composite foil facings on both sides, improving thermal performance in unventilated cavities adjacent to the insulation.

One of the advantages of Kooltherm K12 is its installation versatility. Whether used as continuous external sheathing or placed between studs, it offers design flexibility that suits both traditional on-site builds and modular construction methods.

The product is CodeMark certified and adheres to the AS/NZS 4859.1:2018 standard. It also boasts a GreenTag GreenRate certification, positioning it as an environmentally responsible choice that supports sustainability goals and earns Green Star credits for projects.

Kooltherm K12's suitability for modular and off-site construction further highlights its adaptability. Its lightweight nature and ease of installation make it an ideal solution for a range of projects, from energy-efficient homes to large-scale commercial developments.

A prime example of Kooltherm K12's application is the Geelong Library and Heritage Centre, a $45.5 million project designed by ARM Architecture and built by Kane Constructions. The project required a robust insulation solution to meet demanding thermal and architectural criteria. David Purcell, project manager at Kane, noted that the product was able to deliver on quality, availability and CodeMark certification. "Kingspan insulation worked seamlessly with our construction methodology, making this unique build both easier and faster.".

PRODUCT
Kooltherm K12

SUPPLIER
Kingspan

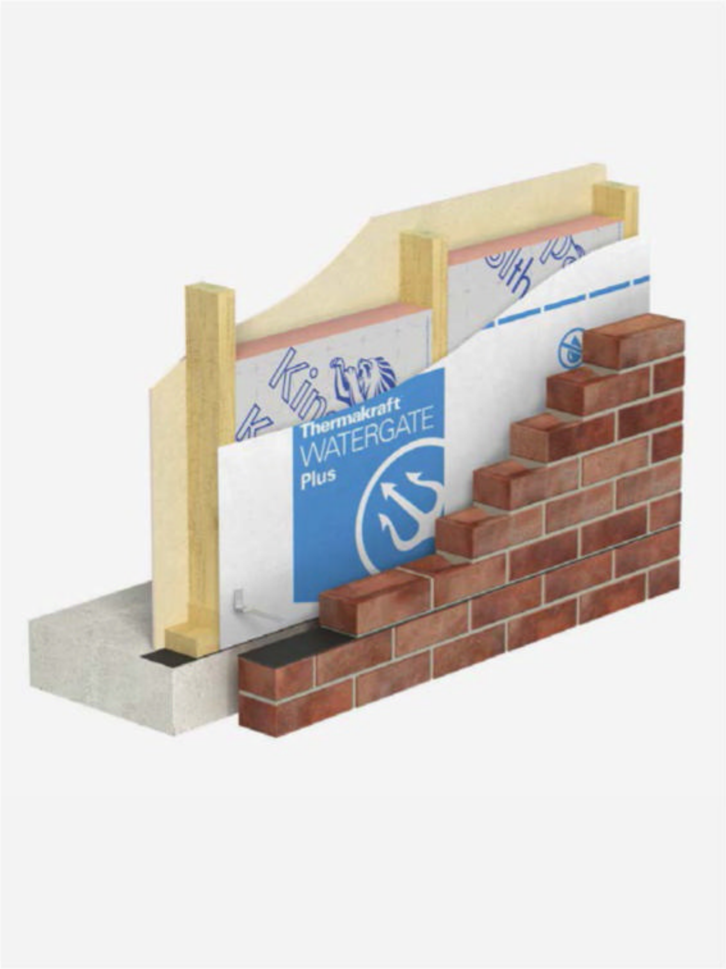
EMAIL
info@kingspaninsulation.com.au

PHONE
1300 247 235

MORE INFO
kingspan.com.au

Opposite and below: Geelong Library and Heritage Centre by ARM Architecture built using Kingspan's Kooltherm K12 product. Photos: Emma Cross.

Below: Kingspan's Kooltherm K12 product is suitable for both timber and steel frame structures.



Threshold drainage from Stormtech

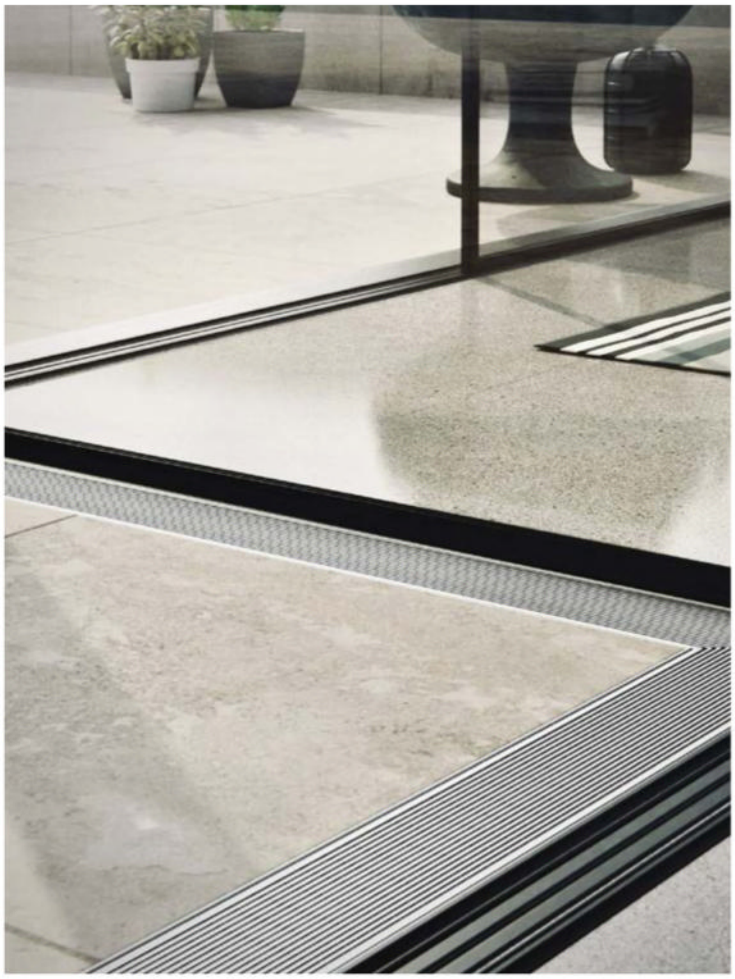
Stormtech produces a range of threshold drainage systems designed to meet the Livable Housing Design requirements, offering step-free access to the dwelling entrance with at least one level threshold.

These drainage systems effectively capture runoff, condensation from doors and windows, and water blown towards the threshold. The collected water is then channelled away from the home via the stormwater system.

Several systems are available, compatible with various door and window types from all major manufacturers. They integrate with the sill, or sill and subsill of sliding, top-hung, or bifold doors to prevent flooding of door tracks.

Stormtech's threshold drains provide an ideal solution for accessible entranceways, offering a seamless transition between the indoor and outdoor finished floor levels with zero steps.

Stormtech's grates and drains have been locally manufactured in Australia for over 35 years.
stormtech.com.au



Stormtech's products are manufactured using 316 marine-grade stainless steel.

Composite cladding from JEC Composites

Composites are reshaping modern architecture by combining strength, lightness, and durability, allowing architects, designers, and engineers to push the limits of construction and possibilities for performance and design.

By replacing conventional materials, composites also allow for more organic, fluid forms, offering greater flexibility in design.

Composites are enabling architects to design gravity-defying structures and seamless, low-maintenance architecture. Examples such as the Steve Jobs Theatre Roof in the USA, a large-scale carbon-fibre composite structure that appears to float without support, and the CAEROSTRIS Wall E+ in France, a bio-composite facade designed for energy efficiency, showcase the transformative potential of these materials in modern architecture.

With ongoing advancements in bio-based resins, smart composites, and 3D printing, the role of composites in architecture is expected to grow even further, solidifying their place as a key material in the future of construction.
composites.archi

Composites allow for more organic, fluid forms, offering greater flexiblity in design.

How a designer used Lysaght's Enseam to assist with seamless integration in a bush landscape

Nestled on the hillside of Mount Keira, Mountain House by Nadine K Design blends Japanese and Scandinavian influences to complement its tranquil bush setting. The home's exterior is distinguished by Lysaght Enseam walling in Colorbond steel's Monument, which enhances its minimalist aesthetic.

The broad flat pans and subtle ribbing of Enseam add a tactile depth, while the concealed fixing system contributes to a seamless, refined finish. The deep Monument tone provides a striking contrast to the verdant landscape of the Illawarra escarpment, enhancing the structure's integration into its environment.

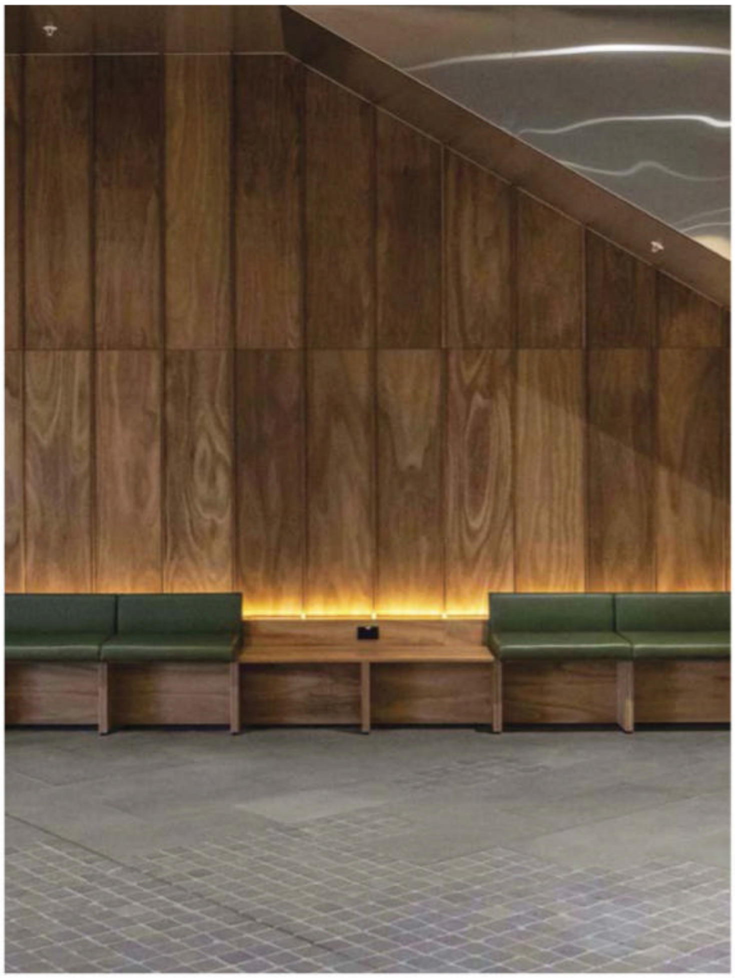
Lysaght Enseam's functionality goes beyond its visual appeal. Its superior durability and resilience are suited to withstand the demanding Australian climate, ensuring that Mountain House remains both aesthetically pleasing and structurally sound for years. The use of natural materials such as timber, stone, and steel within the home's interior complements its exterior, further reinforcing the connection between the building and its surroundings.

Mountain House demonstrates how careful material selection, like the use of Lysaght Enseam walling, can elevate a design's aesthetic while ensuring long-term durability and performance, making it a reference point for future residential projects in similar contexts.

lysaght.com

Mountain House by Nadine K Design featuring Lysaght's Enseam product.

Using Big River Group timber to achieve biophilic design in commercial settings



As biophilic design becomes a standard in commercial architecture, the use of wood and stone facilitates wellbeing and visual connections to nature, even in the absence of outdoor spaces.

The natural properties of timber provide additional benefits beyond aesthetics. Timber contributes to a reduction in stress levels, promoting a healthier indoor environment. Its thermal insulation properties help maintain internal temperature regulation, reducing heat gain in summer and heat loss in winter. Additionally, its hygroscopic nature allows timber to absorb and release moisture, improving indoor humidity and air quality.

Big River Timber's products, such as hoop pine plywood, Armourpanel and ArmourCab, are commonly chosen for their distinctive textures, durability, and visual appeal. These materials are not only functional but also enhance the character and individuality of a space, contributing to both the health and aesthetic value of commercial interiors.
bigrivergroup.com.au

480 Swan Street by Cox Architecture. Photo: Vicki Morskate.

Nineline Flute architectural wall cladding from Stratco

Stratco Australia, in partnership with Studio Nine Architects, has launched Flute, a new addition to their Nineline cladding series. Featuring a unique curved profile, Flute draws inspiration from neoclassical architecture, delivering both dramatic architectural impact and robust performance.

Joining the bold geometric profiles of the Nineline collection, Flute introduces a fresh option for creating contemporary facades. Its standout feature is its significant depth – at 144 mm, it's the deepest profile in the current range, creating a striking interplay of light and shadows.

Flute's no-exposed-fixing system ensures a fully waterproof wall solution with a seamless, refined finish. Additionally, its demountable capabilities allow for easy panel replacement or reuse, contributing to a more circular economy.

The Flute profile is available in a range of finishes, including Colorbond, traditional galvanised Z600 steel, stainless steel and Stratco-exclusive woodgrain options. Further design resources, such as Revit files and product specifications, are available digitally.
stratco-arc.com.au

The Flute profile is available in a range of finishes to suit any design. Render: Mr P.

Overtur architectural software from Allegion

Overtur is a cloud-based platform designed to streamline the door hardware specification process, developed by Allegion. In increasingly complex projects, managing door hardware specifications can become challenging, requiring coordination among multiple stakeholders, extensive documentation, and frequent revisions. Overtur offers a centralised, collaborative platform to simplify this process from design through to construction.

A standout feature is Overtur's integration with Building Information Modeling (BIM) software, such as Autodesk Revit. This integration facilitates seamless data import and export, ensuring that door hardware specifications remain accurate and current within the BIM model. This reduces the risk of errors and omissions associated with manual data entry while ensuring all project stakeholders have access to up-to-date information. The platform also enhances collaboration by allowing architects, specifiers, and contractors to work together in real time. Tools for reviewing and commenting on specifications ensure effective communication and the swift resolution of issues, helping to avoid delays and rework during the construction phase.

allegion.com.au

Overtur provides a comprehensive library of product information including technical data, installer instructions and compliance documentation.

Australian-made steel building products from Stramit

Stramit provides a diverse range of Australian-made steel building solutions designed to withstand Australia's unique environmental conditions. As a vertically integrated company, it delivers premium products including steel roof sheeting, wall cladding, rainwater systems, and structural components.

The product range includes a variety of colours and finishes, such as Colorbond steel and Unicote, providing versatile options for residential and commercial projects. These finishes offer enhanced durability, particularly in coastal areas requiring increased corrosion resistance. The solutions cater to various applications, from coastal homes to modern commercial buildings.

The Stramit Architectural Range offers bespoke cladding solutions, enabling unique architectural expression. Designed to meet both functional and aesthetic needs, these products facilitate seamless integration into diverse building designs.

With years of industry experience, innovative design, and rigorous testing, all products meet the National Construction Code and Australian standards. Specification and support services ensure confidence throughout the project lifecycle, from initial design to final installation.

stramit.com.au

Wye House by Andrew Simpson Architects. Photo: Peter Bennetts.

PMP U Series architectural screening by Solidal

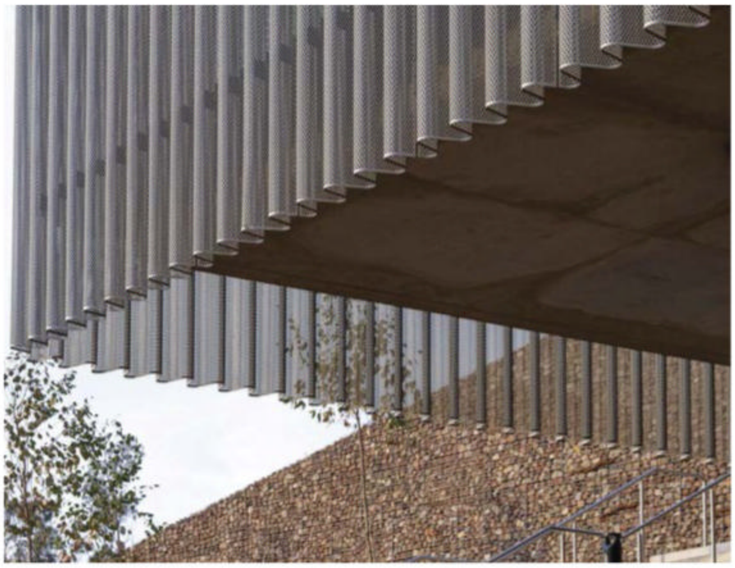
Solidal's PMP U Series architectural screens are designed to drape over building envelopes, creating a metal curtain effect while providing substantial shading for occupant comfort. Designed and engineered in Australia, these products respond to the country's unique environmental conditions, offering specifiers a range of corrugated screens to enhance facade treatments.

The screens are made from solid aluminium, with an optional low-carbon eCO$_2$ aluminium material. Ranging from 2 mm to 6 mm in thickness, they are manufactured using Solidal's precision-engineered proprietary machinery and custom moulds. The metal forming is completed before the final coating process, ensuring a high-quality finish.

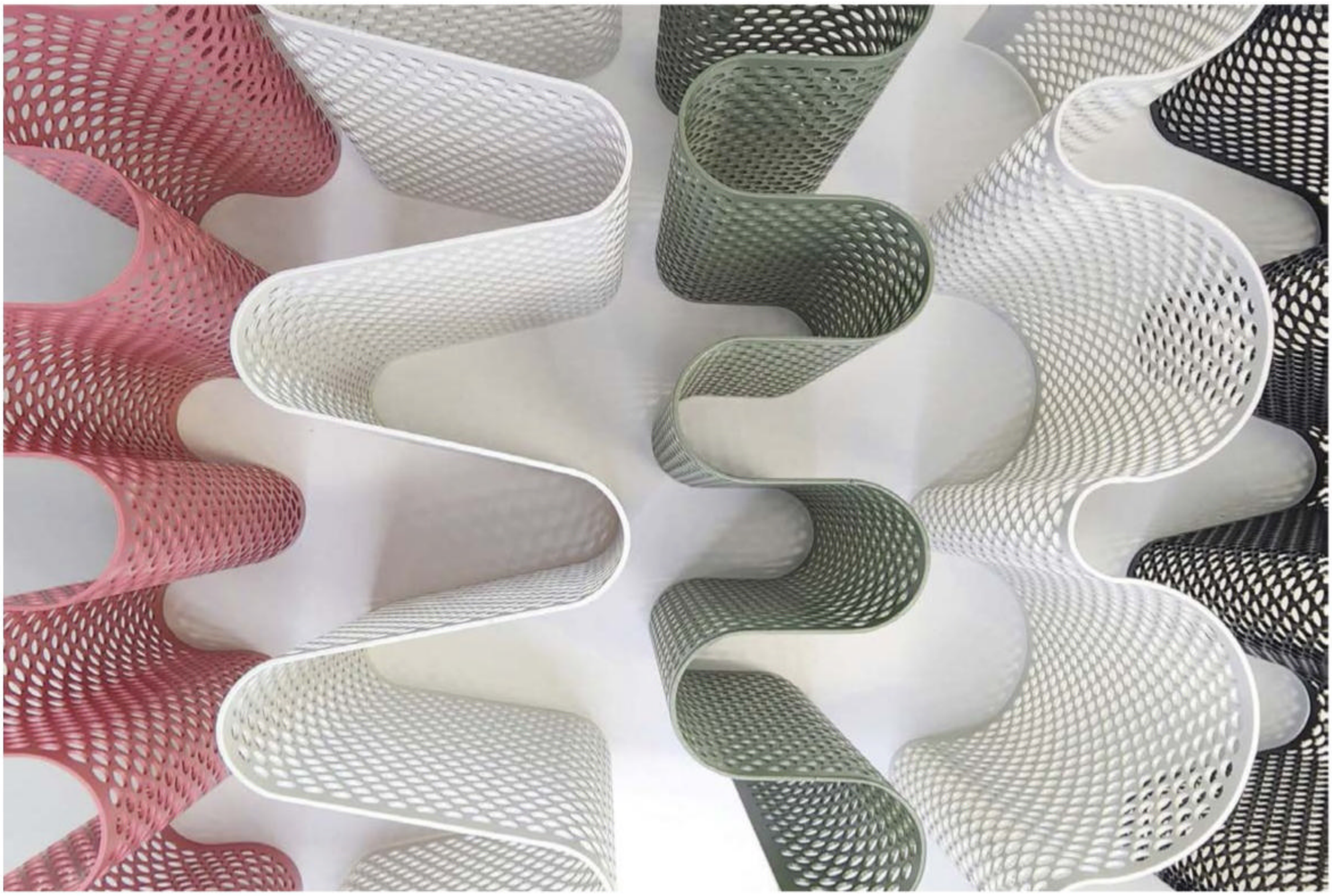
With span fixings up to 4000 mm and cantilever capabilities of up to 1500 mm, Solidal's PMP Screens are ideal for large-scale applications. Their deep corrugations create an organic, robust aesthetic while reducing the need for extensive subframing, thanks to their ability to cover large distances.

PMP Screens are non-combustible and come installation-ready, eliminating the need for on-site cutting, machining, or coating.

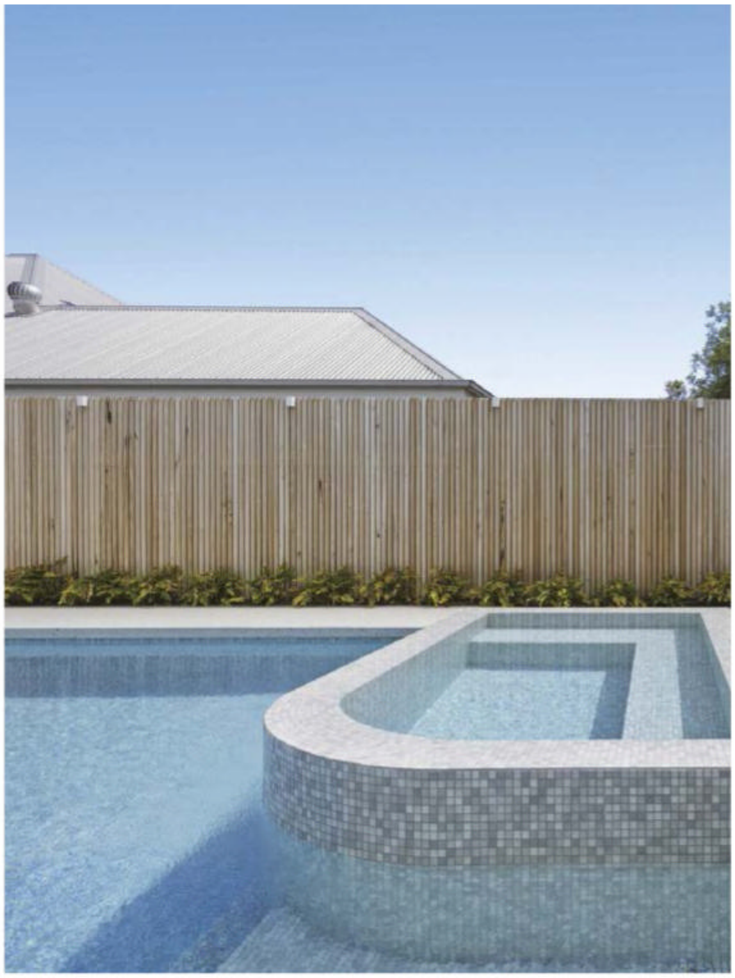
Manufactured by Watermark International, an Australian-owned company, the screens are produced both locally and offshore, ensuring high production standards.
solidal.com



Solidal's range of curved profiles allows architects to achieve unique facade treatments.



Fresh pool mosaic tiles by Klay Tiles and Facades



Klay's Fresh ceramic pool tiles can be supplied in two slip ratings, two sizes, and a broad range of modern, vibrant colours.

Colour mixes include Caribbean Blue, Coral Red, Forest Green, and Sunset Orange. Aesthetic preferences can be further expressed with the selection of Glazed, Glossy, or Stoneware finishes.

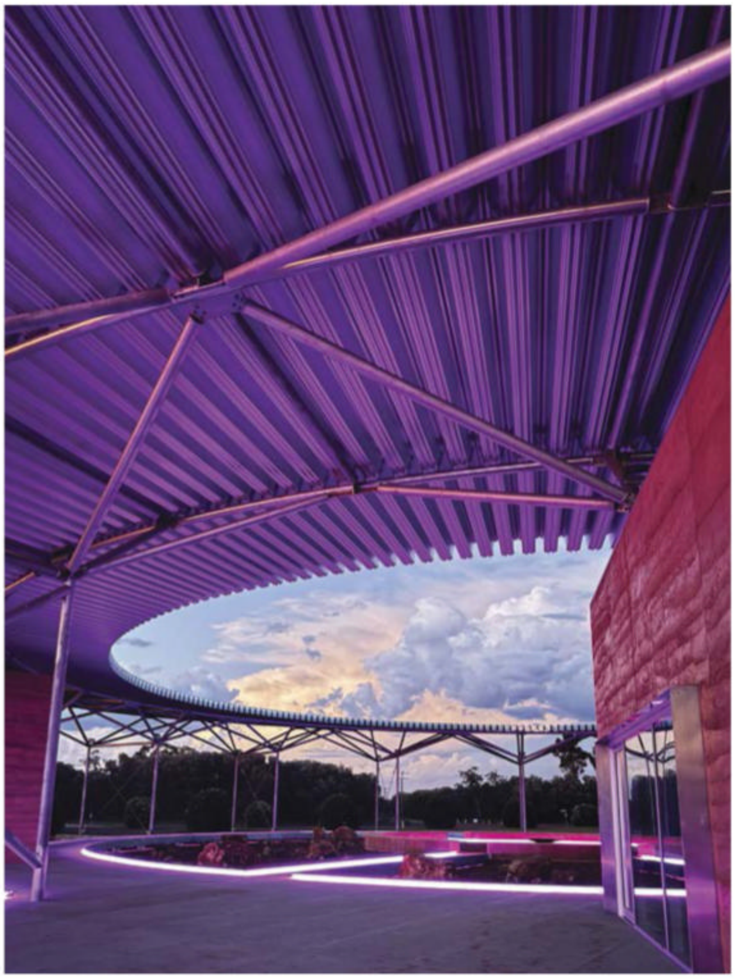
Fresh tiles are offered in two sizes: 25 mm and 50 mm. Both sizes can be treated so that they achieve either R10 or R11 slip-resistance ratings.

This product is suitable for non-pool floor and wall applications, even in dry areas. However, Klay advises that Fresh pool tiles excel in large commercial and residential aquatic spaces, where water may emphasise the colours' full depth and vibrancy.

Klay's website has a section devoted to project photos that offer inspiration for pool tile and paver applications. The site also features a number of relevant case studies.
klay.com.au

Klay's Fresh ceramic tiles are ideal for wet areas where higher slip ratings are required.

Longreach Tapered profile from Spantech



The Spantech Longreach Tapered profile offers a distinctive solution for long-span roofing applications, combining the advantages of wide-span systems with a tapered cover width ranging from 850 mm to 400 mm. This unique system reduces structural support requirements by over 30%, making it particularly suited for large-scale commercial buildings.

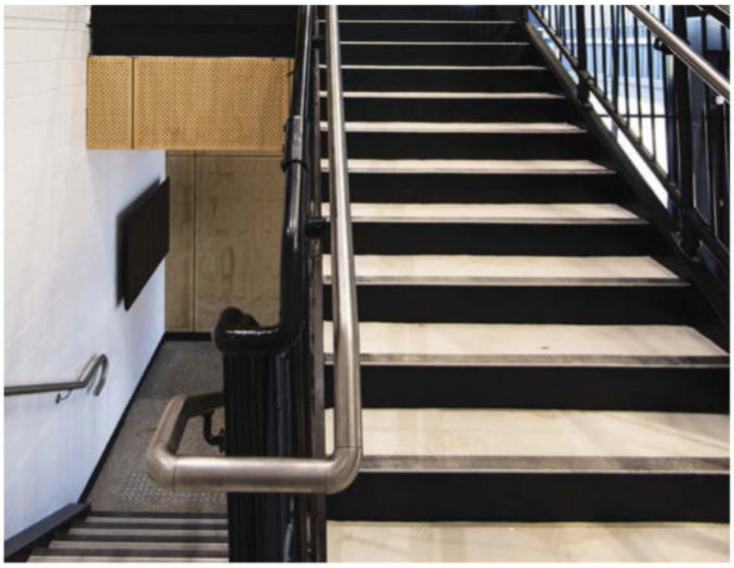
Originally designed for large circular roofs, the Longreach Tapered profile is adaptable to various complex geometries, including irregular, fan-shaped, and undulating skillion roofs. It features a deep, bold profile that ensures both aesthetic appeal and structural integrity.

Key technical features of the system include an interlocking connection with minimal fasteners, ensuring a durable and watertight seal, as well as large free spans that reduce the need for excessive structural steel. The system offers precision engineering with mechanically tapered profiles, available in both steel and aluminium materials. Manufactured on-site, it can be produced in lengths up to 30 metres, with extended lengths available upon request.

Fast installation, combined with engineering certification and comprehensive design support, ensures that the Longreach Tapered profile is well-suited for complex commercial projects across Australia.
spantech.com.au

The Outback Museum of Australia designed by March Studio.

Three case studies featuring Moddex's Conectabal Commercial Balustrades



Moddex's safety products offer a reliable, pre-fabricated solution designed to enhance accessibility across a variety of commercial projects. Known for their ease of integration and compliance with Australian standards, these systems are increasingly chosen by architects for their versatility, durability, and quick installation. Here are three case studies featuring the Conectabal system, showcasing its effectiveness in different settings.

The $22 million South Pine Sports Complex in Moreton Bay required a solution to ensure safety for a high volume of visitors. Moddex's Conectabal and Assistrail products provided a pre-fabricated, compliant option, which reduces fall risks and improves accessibility in a widely used community facility.

Left: Loxton Recreation Centre in South Australia. Below: Miners Rest Primary School in Victoria.

At Miners Rest Primary School in Victoria, Conectabal Commercial Balustrades were integrated with Assistrail Disability Handrails to meet safety and accessibility requirements. The systems were easy to specify and install, ensuring compliance with Class 9B Building regulations for primary schools.

For the $13.2 million upgrade of Loxton Recreation Centre, Moddex was chosen for its short lead times and full compliance. The Conectabal System provided seamless integration and a reliable and compliant safety solution.

offers.moddex.com

Permalite Waveline cladding used in a coastal setting in South Australia

The Kingston Park Kiosk, designed by Troppo Architects, was completed in February 2024 and serves as a welcoming beachfront community venue for locals and visitors. The design integrates seamlessly with its coastal environment, emphasising durability and aesthetic appeal.

To meet the challenges posed by harsh coastal conditions, the structure incorporates Lysaght's Permalite Waveline cladding, a corrosion-resistant marine-grade aluminium product. Selected for its robustness, the cladding ensures long-lasting protection for the kiosk while maintaining its sleek design. Senior architect at Troppo Architects, Tain Patterson, highlighted the need for roofing capable of withstanding corrosive elements, while also meeting the requirement for a 25-year service life.

The Kingston Park Kiosk by Troppo Architects featuring Lysaght's Permalite Waveline cladding.

With a variety of colour options and a reliable warranty, the product provided an ideal solution for the project. The kiosk now serves as a vibrant community hub, contributing to the local landscape while enduring the challenges of coastal exposure, providing lasting value to the residents of and visitors to Holdfast Bay.
permalite.lysaght.com

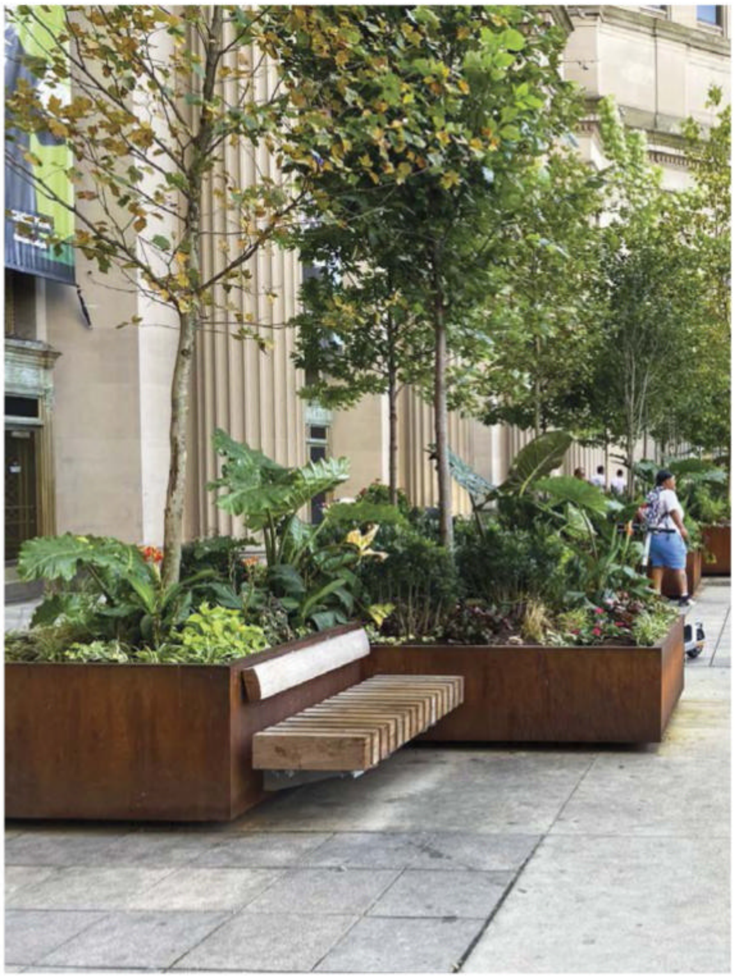
Rough & Ready Hug a Tub series from Streetlife

The Hug a Tub series from Streetlife provides a functional solution for integrating greenery into urban environments while offering comfortable seating. These tree planters with built-in benches are designed to enhance public spaces with a balance of durability and flexibility, making them suitable for city squares and pedestrian-focused landscapes.

The Rough & Ready (R&R) Hug a Tubs are available in cylindrical, oval, and square shapes, each designed to meet diverse spatial requirements. The cylindrical and oval versions feature robust R&R beam profiles, while the square model facilitates flexible city layouts, supporting mobile green zones in plazas and concrete decks. Seating configurations are available in full, half, or quarter options, providing adaptable user interaction.

The Solid Serif Hug a Tub introduces a refined aesthetic with its herringbone corner seating arrangement, offering a sophisticated solution for structured urban settings.

All Hug a Tub designs are made from sustainable materials, including FSC-certified wood (license number: C105477) and All Black recyclate. All Black is made from 100% recycled plastic (PP and PE) and is solid black throughout.
streetlife.com



Streetlife enables seamless integration of greenery into urban environments.

High-grade stainless-steel barbecues from Christie

Christie's premium cooktops and cabinets are made from high-quality stainless steel, specifically grades 4622 and 304, ensuring long-lasting durability and making them a more sustainable choice.

The cooktops and A Series barbecue cabinets feature 4622 stainless steel, composed of 90% recyclable materials – significantly higher than the 70% found in most other grades. This alloy excels in heat dispersion and corrosion resistance, making it ideal for both cooking and marine environments. Its durability reduces the need for replacements, while its full recyclability supports a circular economy.

The Icon and Modular cabinets are crafted from 304 stainless steel, known for its ability to be reused without compromising on quality. This material is highly sustainable, and recycling further reduces its environmental impact.

Christie's product range places a strong emphasis on food hygiene, cooking performance, durability, and sustainability in its design.

dachristie.com

Crafted to last, Christie's barbecues are made from premium-grade stainless steel.

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OUR COLLECTIONS

How Shade Factor helped improve the thermal efficiency of a Brunswick apartment project

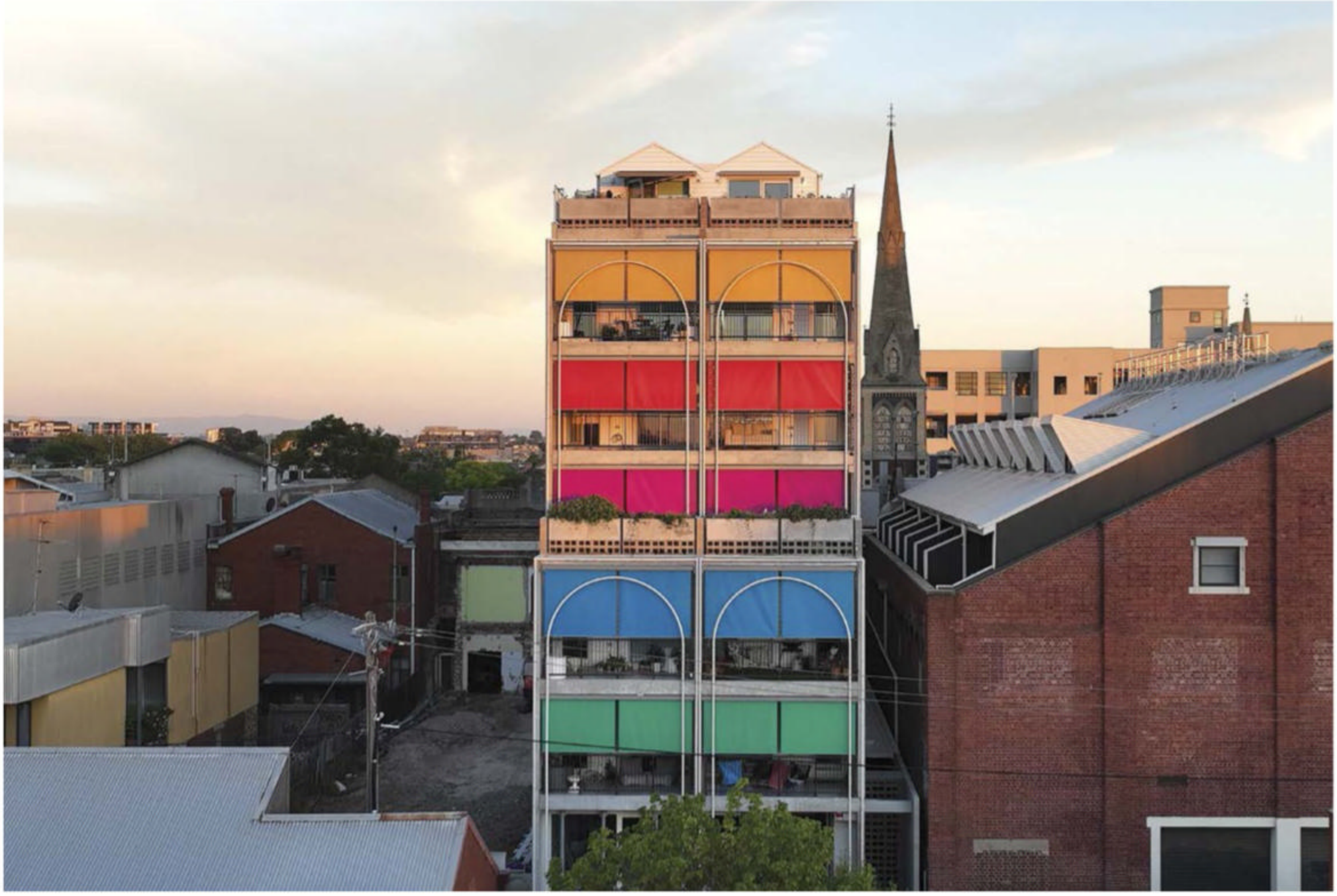
Terrace House, a project by Austin Maynard Architects, redefines sustainable urban living in Brunswick. This multi-residential development, located on Sydney Road, is designed to be fossil fuel-free with a focus on thermal efficiency. Shade Factor provided a tailored shading solution for the project which was integrated to meet regulatory standards while enhancing the building's playful yet robust design.

To support the building's performance, Warema Terrea K50 folding arm cassette awnings and front-mounted vertical awnings with cable guidance were selected for their functionality and aesthetic impact. Shade Factor collaborated with Austin Maynard Architects and the fire engineers to ensure the blinds met safety and fire requirements through a performance solution.

Automated with sensor systems, these awnings enable residents to control daylight and minimise heat gain, enhancing comfort while reducing energy consumption.

This shading solution plays a crucial role in the building's dynamic facade and passive design strategy, ensuring a sustainable and enjoyable living experience.

shadefactor.com.au



Terrace House by Austin Maynard Architects. Photo: Derek Swalwell.

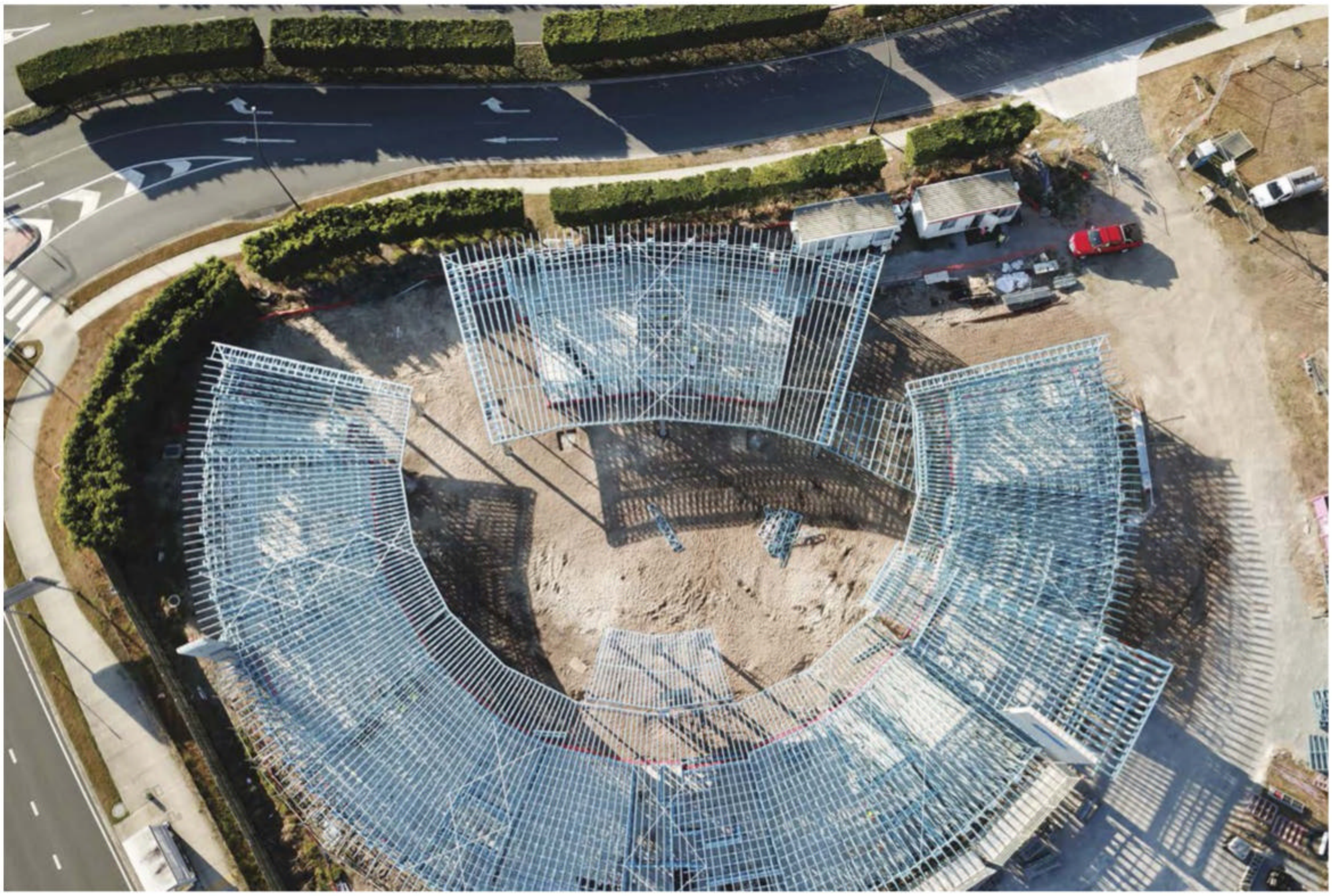
How Truecore steel was used to create a 2,000 sqm frame in 25 days

The design of the new Sunkids Childcare Centre in Queensland features two dramatic arc-shaped roofs encircling a central courtyard. Architect Hooman Jaffar envisioned the arcs as symbols of the human notion of embracing and nurturing.

Initially, the centre was to be built using concrete blocks for the walls and a suspended concrete slab for the roof. However, 9 Constructions proposed an alternative of prefabricated light gauge steel framing made from Bluescope's Truecore steel. This solution maintained the building's thermal, acoustic, and structural integrity without compromising the design.

Australian Framing Solutions (AFS) was appointed to design and fabricate the framing structure, including the complex roof design. The structure comprises five zones and incorporates over 300 trusses, each spanning more than 14 metres. The 2,000-square-metre frame was constructed entirely from Truecore steel in just 25 days by a team of five.

bluescope.com



Construction of the Sunkids Childcare Centre by Hooman Jaffar.

Balcony drainage grates and channels from Veitch Stainless Steel

Veitch's drains are available in lengths of up to six metres.

Balconies in homes and townhouses have long been prone to water leakage issues, which is why a new construction code now governs their design and drainage. This code specifies the required floor fall, the slope of the balcony grate, and the need for overflows to ensure proper water management.

Early engagement with the manufacturer of the channel and grate is crucial for ensuring that these design requirements are met. Discussing the necessary falls at the outset of the project will prevent complications later, where attempts to manage water flow could fail to meet compliance.

All Veitch drainage channels are designed with a 100:1 fall ratio to the waste outlet, which not only adheres to the code but ensures efficient and reliable drainage. These channels are fully welded and ready for installation when they leave the factory, with delivery available for sites within a 100 km radius of Melbourne CBD. They are available in lengths of up to six metres.

Crafted from marine-grade stainless steel and manufactured using advanced CNC equipment and design tools, the channels offer durability and precision. With a consistent turnaround time of 5 to 10 working days, these products are built to support seamless construction while meeting stringent compliance standards.

veitchstainless.com.au

Sai Reclaimed Bricks from Sai Stone

For every 1,000 bricks used, approximately 250 kg of CO_2 emissions are saved.

Reclaimed bricks from Sai Stone offer a sustainable and distinctive option for modern construction. Sourced from historically significant demolished buildings, each brick carries over 100 years of history, contributing to the authenticity and character of new projects. The unique weathered appearance of recycled bricks enhances architectural designs with a sense of timelessness, making them ideal for heritage restorations or contemporary builds seeking an aged, yet sophisticated look.

In addition to their aesthetic value, reclaimed bricks significantly reduce the environmental impact of construction. For every 1,000 bricks used, approximately 250 kg of CO_2 emissions are saved. The production of new bricks generates between 0.2 and 0.3 kg of CO_2 per brick, while the carbon footprint of reclaimed bricks is much lower – around 0.05 to 0.1 kg of CO_2 per brick. This reduction in carbon emissions represents a 70% decrease compared to using new bricks, making reclaimed options a far more eco-friendly choice.

Available in four colours, including the exclusive white ochre and charcoal ochre blends, these bricks not only promote sustainability but also offer a unique aesthetic not found in standard market offerings. Whether for new construction or renovation, reclaimed bricks from Sai Stone provide both environmental benefits and a distinctive design element that enhances the built environment.

saistone.com.au

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Industry News

① Oceania Glass closes after 169 years

Oceania Glass has announced it will be ceasing production. The closure comes amid rising gas costs, which were critical for powering the facility's 2000-tonne furnace. Oceania was Australia's only manufacturer of architectural flat glass.

② Artedomus opens Perth showroom

Artedomus has opened a new showroom in Perth, returning to its roots in Bayswater. The facility combines a showroom with a warehouse, providing a resource for Western Australia's architectural and design communities. The brand was founded in Perth in 1982.

Artedomus's new Perth Showroom. Photo: Joanne Ly.

③ Brickworks and Mud Australia launch limited-edition paver

Brickworks and Mud Australia have collaborated to create the limited-edition Forma paver, blending design with sustainability. The 400 mm x 400 mm paver incorporates 15% reclaimed ceramic waste from Mud Australia's production process, diverting material from landfill and reinforcing circular design principles. Manufactured locally in New South Wales, the Forma paver offers a curated palette inspired by Mud Australia's signature hues. The paver's terrazzo-like finish is made by blending crushed ceramic aggregate into concrete.

Two iconic Australia brands, Brickworks and Mud Australia, have joined forces to create a limited-edition product – the Forma paver.

④ IOTA Australia rebrands as Sigma Planters

After 17 years in operation as a premium planter supplier, IOTA Australia has rebranded as Sigma Planters. The rebrand follows the company's recent success in securing over $1 million in funding, as well as the expansion of new warehouses in Sydney and Melbourne. Sigma Planters, now 100% Australian-owned, is poised for national growth while continuing to maintain global partnerships.

⑤ Andersens Flooring partners with green initiative ResiLoop

Andersens has partnered with ResiLoop, Australia's first product stewardship scheme for floor coverings, to tackle the issue of flooring waste. The initiative aims to reduce the 60,000 tonnes of resilient flooring waste sent to landfill annually, particularly vinyl offcuts, by promoting recycling and reuse. Andersens is helping keep valuable materials in circulation, supporting a circular economy and further bolstering the company's sustainability efforts.

ResiLoop's program recovers flooring offcuts during installations, preventing waste and transforming the material into new products, such as garden edging. The program is funded through a small levy, costing consumers just $21 for an average new home, which supports offcut collection and ongoing research into more sustainable practices.

⑥ Tapestry Design Prize 2025

The 2025 Tapestry Design Prize invites architects, interior designers, and artists to submit their work for five distinct spaces within the iconic Boyd House II/Walsh Street in South Yarra, designed by Robin Boyd in 1957. Finalists will have their designs woven into tapestry and displayed at the house in November 2025. Entries are open now and will close on 19 May. Five finalists will be chosen, with the winner announced on 13 November. Prizes include a $5000 first prize, a $1000 People's Choice Award, and a $1000 artist fee for each finalist. The jury includes Sally Evans, Director of Graphic Design + Product Development at Nexus Designs; Cassie Hansen, Editor of InteriorsAU; and Patrick Kennedy, Principal at Kennedy Nolan. This opportunity is open to those who live and work in Australia.

⑦ Christie Barbecues marks 60 years in operation

Christie Barbecues is celebrating 60 years of innovation in Australia's outdoor cooking culture. Known for pioneering the public barbecue, Christie has installed over 50,000 units worldwide. The family-owned company continues to refine its products, focusing on environmentally friendly and durable designs. As it expands globally, Christie is forging new partnerships in countries such as New Zealand, Sweden, and the UK.

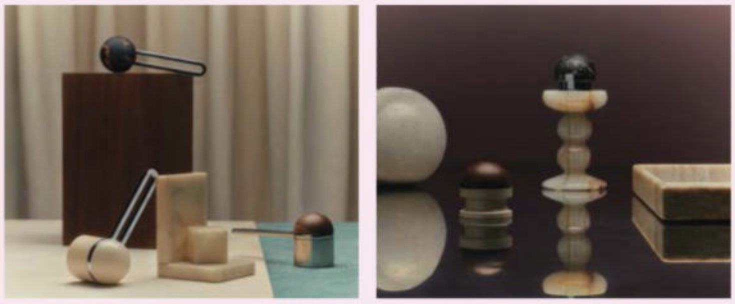
⑧ Clement Meadmore's mid-century designs relaunched

Iconic Australian designer Clement Meadmore's mid-century furniture and lighting designs have been reimagined and unveiled by Australian manufacturer Grazia & Co. At an exclusive event held at Melbourne's Royal Botanical Gardens, design professionals gathered to experience the new collection. Curated by Ewan McEoin, Senior Curator at the National Gallery of Victoria, the collection presents a fresh take on Meadmore's timeless classics, now enhanced with innovative materials for both indoor and outdoor use. This relaunch caters to 21st-century collectors and design enthusiasts, bringing new life to Meadmore's legacy.

The newly relaunched Meadmore Reclining Chair. Photo: Danny Smith.

⑨ Hemispheres collection wins iF Design Award

The Hemispheres collection, created by South Australia's Bankston and New York's Civilian, has been recognised with a 2025 iF Design Award. Featuring 12 pieces of customisable architectural hardware, the collection uses five key materials – American walnut, Potoro Gold marble, polished chrome, smooth nickel, and bone. Its design, inspired by the hemispherical dome shape, represents a fusion of the designers' influences. The collection scored highly against 10,651 global submissions in categories such as differentiation, form, function, idea, and sustainability. Hemispheres was one of only two Australian products to win in the Home Furniture/Decoration category.



The collection's namesake pays tribute to the central dome shape found throughout the range, symbolising the convergence of two geographic hemispheres – Bankston in South Australia and Civilian in New York.

①⓪ NATSPEC celebrates its golden anniversary

The not-for-profit organisation marked 50 years of operation with a gala lunch in Melbourne on 1 May. NATSPEC maintains the National Building Specification for which it's named; AUS-SPEC, the local government specification system for the life-cycle management of assets; the National Classification System, to assist specification writers and users; and the National BIM Guide.

①① Tickets on sale for the 2025 Houses Awards Presentation

The shortlist for Australia's foremost residential architecture program has been revealed. Join the celebration on Friday 1 August as the winning and commended entries are announced at the awards ceremony at the State Library of New South Wales. Head to housesawards.com.au to book your tickets and see the full shortlist gallery.

Left: Shortlisted Quadrant House by Kieron Gait Architects. Photo: Christopher Frederick Jones. Right: Shortlisted Harvest House by Cera Stribley. Photo: Tom Ross.

①② Melbourne Design Week returns this month

Melbourne Design Week returns from 15-25 May 2025, showcasing contemporary designs, including avante-garde lighting and furniture tailored for neurodivergent audiences. The event, which runs for 11 days and features 350+ events, offers a platform for both emerging and established Australian designers.

Key highlights include A New Normal, an exhibition focused on creating a self-sufficient Melbourne by 2030, and a retrospective of lighting designer Volker Haug's 20-years in Australia. Other presentations include works from leading designers and brands such as Trent Jansen, Coco Flip, Jessie French, Fiona Lynch, Tait, and Cult.

As Australia's largest design event, Melbourne Design Week continues to evolve, attracting over 100,000 visitors in 2024. Curated by the National Gallery of Victoria (NGV) and supported by Creative Victoria, the festival encourages designers to consider their role in shaping a sustainable future through the theme 'Design the world you want'.

①③ Genesis Safety wins WorkSafe Award

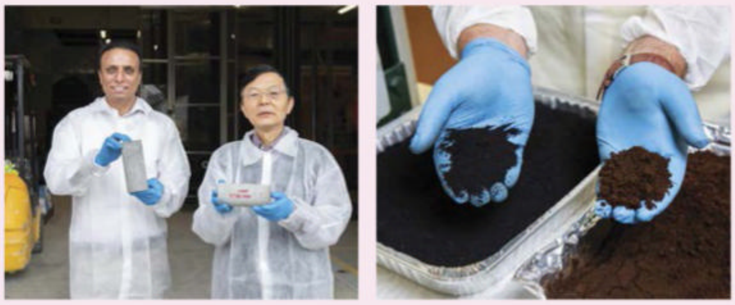
Genesis Safety has won a prestigious WorkSafe Award for its innovative Raise and Lower Change Table, designed to reduce musculoskeletal injuries in early childhood education settings. The table allows staff to adjust the height from floor level to standing position using electric motors, reducing the physical strain involved in nappy changing. Developed by Genesis Safety's Jennifer Kearney in collaboration with Deutscher Healthcare, the table is portable, adjustable, and complies with Australian Safety Standards. This award-winning design enhances workplace safety and improves efficiency in early education centres across Australia.

Genesis Safety's award-winning Raise and Lower Change Table. Photo: Supplied.

①④ 'Coffee concrete' wins national prize

RMIT University's research team won the Problem Solver category at the 2024 Universities Australia Shaping Australia Awards for their development of 'coffee concrete'. The innovation developed by Dr Rajeev Roychand, Professor Jie Li, Associate Professor Shannon Kilmartin-Lynch, Dr Mohammad Saberian, Professor Guomin (Kevin) Zhang and Professor Chun Qing Li uses biochar derived from used coffee grounds to replace sand in concrete production. The use of biochar has also been found to improve concrete strength by 30%. With Australia producing 75,000 tonnes of coffee waste annually, this material addresses both coffee grounds disposal and the environmental impact of concrete production.

The project has quickly moved from the lab to real-world applications, including a world-first footpath trial in Gisborne and use in Victoria's Big Build project.



Left: Dr Rajeev Roychand (left) and Professor Jie Li with coffee concrete samples. Right: The team's coffee biochar (left) next to spent coffee. Both photos: Carelle Mulawa-Richards, RMIT University.

①⑤ Federal Government to spend $54 million on modular housing

The Albanese Government has committed $54 million in the 2025 federal budget to support the construction of modular and prefabricated homes. The initiative is part of its efforts under the National Housing Accord to deliver 1.2 million new homes by 2029, aiming to ease Australia's housing crisis.

①⑥ Adelaide's Riverside Central becomes carbon-neutral post-retrofit

Siemens' technology has helped Ashbridge Capital's Riverside Centre in Adelaide achieve significant sustainability milestones, including a 50% reduction in electricity costs, a 40% decrease in energy consumption, and a 67.5% cut in emissions. The building, which was originally constructed in 1987, has earned a 5.5 Star NABERS Energy rating and is now fully carbon neutral – making it the only office tower in South Australia with this certification.

In 2020, Ashbridge Capital, on behalf of German investor Atlantic Funds, invested $24 million in energy efficiency upgrades for the 22,000 sqm building. These improvements included modernising mechanical services, upgrading to LED lighting, and installing a solar panel system.

The Riverside Centre now stands as one of the few older office buildings in Australia to achieve carbon neutrality. Siemens' partnership, from feasibility studies to the installation of best-in-class technology, has helped Ashbridge Capital exceed energy performance targets by 250%.

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Ana Ćalić McLean of In Addition Studio discusses what she loves about specifying burl timber in her interior projects.

Ana Ćalić McLean, director of In Addition Studio. Photo: Jenah Piwanski.

Drawing on 15 years of design experience, Ana Ćalić McLean recently embarked on her own venture, founding In Addition Studio. The studio is built on the premise of creating spaces that are not only compelling but also deeply resonant with those who experience them – often customers, thanks to her strong portfolio of retail fitouts for brands like Paire, Stylecraft, Hommey and July. With a penchant for materiality, treatment experimentation and texture, Ana shares a product she has been enjoying specifying in her projects.

What's your favourite architectural product right now, and what do you love about it?

We've been enjoying working with burl timber veneer lately for its organic texture and luxurious appeal. The material's swirls, knots and irregular grain patterns make each piece one-of-a-kind. Burl is incredibly versatile in its application, from furniture and cabinetry to wall panelling and decorative inlays, and we particularly love its unusual surface variations and rich natural warmth.

If you had to describe burl timber in just three words, what would they be?

Nostalgic. Textured. Rare.

Can you talk us through how you've used it in a recent project?

At our recent July Chadstone boutique, we saturated the brand's curved storefront with Eveneer Raw ALPI California Burl, which wraps into the space as a ceiling lining. The material's surface variation brings depth and dimension to the interior, while gently referencing mid-century luxury vehicle dashboards and plane cabin linings—subtle nods to 'the golden age of travel'.

What feedback have you received from clients about it?

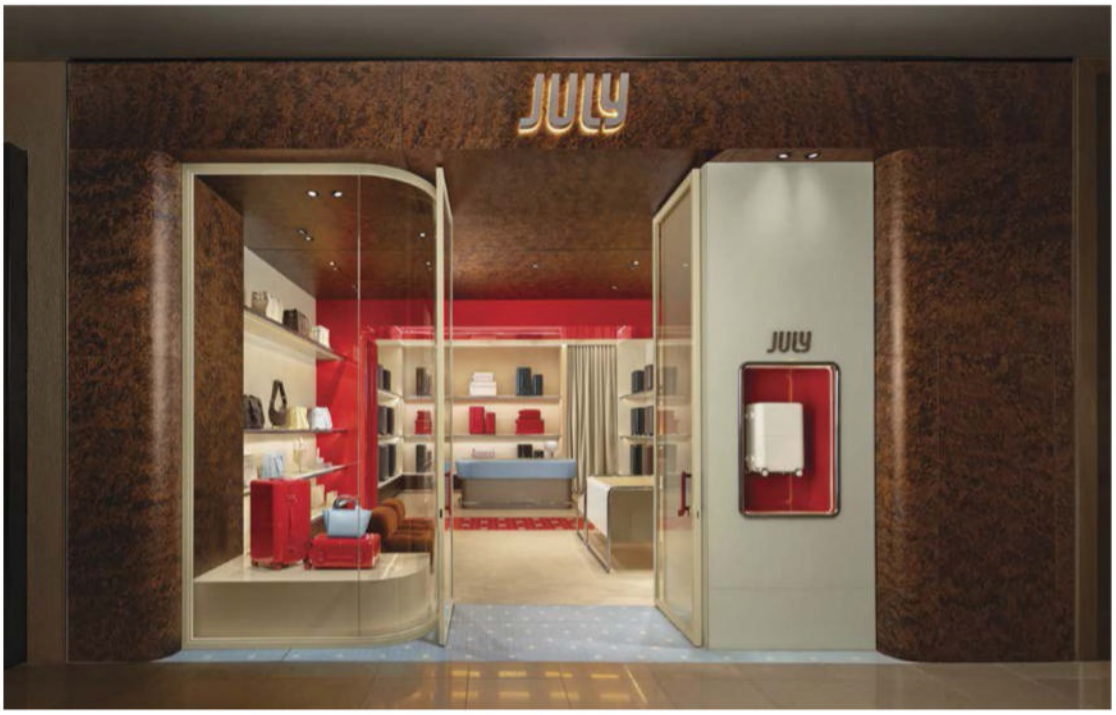
Clients have commented on the burl's warmth and visual impact. One client recently described the material as a 'stone/timber hybrid' which encapsulates its nuanced character quite succinctly.

Do you have any tips for other designers looking to specify burl timber?

Be aware that natural burl veneer is typically available in smaller sheet sizes—a symptom of the material being cut from the rounded, irregular 'burl' growth of the tree, as opposed to regular veneers that are sourced from the trunk.

What's an architectural product you're keen to experiment with that you haven't used previously?

We're curious about the possibilities of cast glass. We recently collaborated with Fools Glass on a bespoke mirror design with C.Gallery, but would love to explore the material for a larger-scale, interior application.



The July Store fit-out features Elton's Eveneer Raw ALPI California Burl both externally and internally. Photos: Cieran Murphy.

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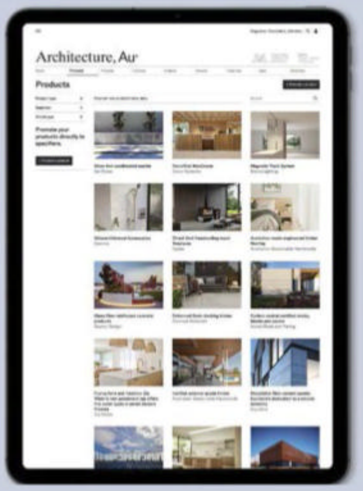

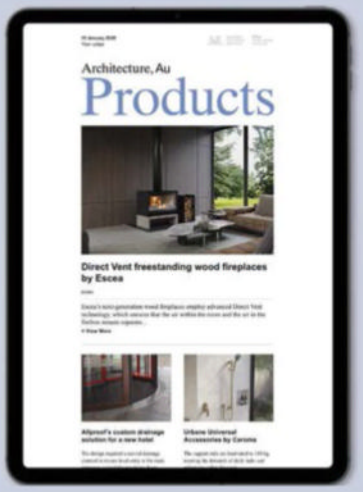
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